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Meet the candidates  
Thier, Leno, Phillips, & Britt  
face off for 13th Assembly race.  
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# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 5 • 31 January 2002

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Former Congressman Tom Coburn

## Activists critical of Coburn on AIDS panel

by Matthew S. Bajko

While gay Republicans have tried to paint President Bush's choices for his HIV/AIDS advisory council as bringing diversity to the panel, other gay groups have attacked some of the appointments as unqualified and a step backwards in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

"We are pleased to see representatives from the trenches of HIV/AIDS care. Unfortunately, what we also see is a heavy influence of religious representation and people whose policy is clearly an abstinence-only approach to HIV/AIDS prevention," said Gay and Lesbian Medical Association Executive Director Maureen S. O'Leary. "What we would like to see are more council members who are in the forefront of AIDS medicine. We don't see expertise in vaccine and treatment research."

The appointments of two conservative Republicans, former Representative Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma) as co-chair and Patricia Funderburk Ware as executive director, have raised the most concerns. Coburn served as vice-chairman of the House Commerce Health and Environment Subcommittee, which oversees HIV/AIDS care and treatment bills.

"While we applaud President Bush for recognizing the importance of [the council], the appointment of Coburn, well-known for his conservative beliefs, will send a very negative message about the future direction of HIV/AIDS policy," said Daniel Montoya, former executive director of the council.

Montoya, AIDS Project Los Angeles  
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## Center to be named after Falcon Studios founder

by Matthew S. Bajko



Jose Romero/Cland

The LGBT Community Center, above, will be named after Falcon Studios founder Charles "Chuck" Holmes, right.



The city's new Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center will be named after Chuck Holmes, founder of the gay adult video business Falcon Studios. The center's board of directors made the announcement after receiving a \$1 million donation from Holmes's estate.

According to center officials, the donation is the largest gift from an individual to a San Francisco LGBT organization. The center has also received a \$250,000 donation from Thomas Whyte, founder of a brokerage company.

"As a businessman, philanthropist and leader of our national civil rights organizations, Mr. Holmes demonstrated an absolute commitment to the strength of our community," said Pat Martel, board president. "This historic gift reflects that commitment and helps us to realize the long-held dream of a gathering place where all

LGBT San Franciscans are welcome to participate in activities that increase their well-being and build the political, social and cultural future of our community."

The new building, which will celebrate its official opening March 3, will be named the Charles M. Holmes Campus of The Center.

Holmes, who died of AIDS complications on September 9, 2000, was not only a purveyor of porn. He contributed to numerous gay rights and HIV/AIDS organizations and served on the boards of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and the Human Rights Campaign.

"This is something Chuck would want to strongly support. Chuck really loved San Francisco and really loved the good work the center could do," said Terry Bean, executor of Holmes's estate.

Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, Holmes earned a degree in business administration from Indiana State University. His first job

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## Court hearing continues for two jailed activists

by Liz Highleyman

The preliminary hearing continued last week in the cases of Michael Petrelis and David Pasquarelli, who are accused of making harassing and threatening phone calls to members of the media (including the editor of the *Bay Area Reporter*), the Department of Public Health, and staff of the University of California at San Francisco.

According to the San Francisco District Attorney's office, Petrelis and Pasquarelli are charged with a combined total of nearly 40 misdemeanor and felony counts including conspiracy, stalking, and making terrorist threats. The men were arrested November 28 as they left a courtroom following a temporary restraining order hearing. Petrelis and Pasquarelli have since been held in jail on bails of \$500,000 and \$600,000, respectively; three judges have declined to reduce the bail amounts.

The hearing before Superior Court Judge Perker Meeks resumed on Wednesday, January 23, where it left off in mid-December. Petrelis and Pasquarelli, appearing in court clad in orange prison uniforms, seemed healthy and in good spirits.

Testimony began with Sabin Russell, one of five *San Francisco Chronicle* staff members who allegedly received phone calls from Petrelis and Pasquarelli. Russell testified that beginning on November 7, he received several calls at his office and his unlisted home number.

Machaela Hctor of the district attorney's office played excerpts of several of the taped calls. The caller, identified as Petrelis, called

Russell "a propagandist for UCSF and the health department." Russell testified that he found the caller's reference to a "day of accountability" "vaguely threatening" and filed a police report.

In the early morning hours of November 8 more messages were left on Russell's answering machine. In these calls, a different voice said, "If you don't stop demonizing gay men we will run you out of town on a rail," and "if there's one more word demonizing queers from you, you're finished ... forever." Russell said he had a "strong suspicion" that the new caller was Pasquarelli, whom he had seen on a recent *60 Minutes* program. Russell testified that he regarded the message as a death threat, and said he asked neighbors to watch out for his son and started carrying a screwdriver and sleeping with a baseball bat next to his bed.

The calls continued over the following week, even after *Chronicle* lawyers obtained a temporary restraining order. On one tape the caller, who seems to be reading from a prepared statement, sounded somewhat different from the voices on the previous tapes and denied he was Pasquarelli.

The charges leveled against Petrelis and Pasquarelli require proof that the defendants intended to cause their victims fear. Petrelis's attorney, Stuart Blumstein, attempted to portray the calls allegedly made by his client as annoying (Blumstein himself used the term "infantile") but not threatening. He noted that Russell did not contact the police immediately after receiving the calls. Mark Vermeulen, Pasquarelli's attorney, focused on raising doubt about whether the voice on the

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## New executive director begins at Continuum

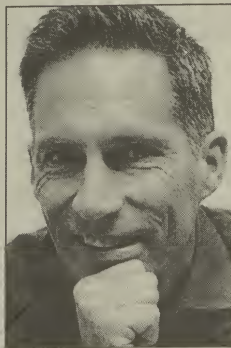
by Katie Szymanski

Six months after the resignation of its last executive director, Continuum, the AIDS Service organization of the Tenderloin neighborhood, has welcomed a new leader. Mark Cloutier took over the post on January 7. He will attempt to fill the shoes of Marcy Fraser, who left last July.

Cloutier, 44, lives in San Francisco with his partner during the week, and spends weekends at his own home in Berkeley. A Continuum board member for the past two years who previously worked as a bioethicist and health care consultant for the East Bay's Health Priorities Group, Cloutier said he looks forward to navigating the agency through this uncertain time for HIV as well as nonprofits.

"It's a vulnerable time in the epidemic," Cloutier told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And I really wanted to step up my commitment to both this agency and vulnerable populations who are going to need more resources."

Continuum provides health and social services to underserved populations, including recent parolees, those who are marginally housed or homeless, addicts, and others who often exist outside of the traditional models of



Continuum's Mark Cloutier

healthcare. Many of its clients are triple-diagnosed with a combination of HIV and hepatitis, and many have been able to use their HIV diagnosis as an entry point to other needed services such as substance abuse treatment. The agency's annual budget is \$3 million; Cloutier's annual salary is \$138,000.

Cloutier views the current recession, as well as the recent drop in nonprofit donations, as a challenge he is eager to meet.

"It's a challenge as well as an opportunity," he said, noting AIDS donor and corporate donor fatigue and a drop in the city's AIDS budget. Under Cloutier,

Continuum will tap into more goal-oriented grants through larger healthcare foundations that will allow the agency to provide services as well as research and document results of its programs. Already some of its federal funds are earmarked for research projects, said Cloutier, where clients are assigned at random to either standard services or enhanced services, and Continuum is able to determine whether its innovations provide a noteworthy advantage.

"It's a way for us to know whether we're being effective and doing the right thing," said Cloutier.

As the epidemic continues to change, Cloutier said Continuum will try to ascertain "what are the services most vital to maintaining people's health, and how do we prioritize getting those services to people most in need?"

Continuum, a licensed health facility, saw 700 clients at its site last year, and visited an additional 200 people in jails and prisons. The agency's mission is to "empower and dignify the lives of under-served people with HIV/AIDS by providing innovative health and human services that prevent institutionalization, minimize harm, establish relationships, and facilitate community."

For more information on the organization, visit [www.continuum.org](http://www.continuum.org).

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# AIDS Ride-9 announces new beneficiaries

Many small nonprofits to pedal for Pallotta

by Katie Szymanski

The in-fighting, threats, and legal squabbles between Pallotta Teamworks, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center appear to have come to natural end, as Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Yaffee earlier this month ruled that SFAF and the center can proceed with their own bike-a-thon fundraiser entitled AIDS/LifeCycle, which directly competes with Pallotta's nearly decade-old AIDS Ride. The organizations behind AIDS/LifeCycle contend that Pallotta's paltory return of just 50 cents for every dollar raised sent the wrong message to donors who would rather see more of their money go directly to HIV/AIDS services.

But for the new Bay Area beneficiaries of California AIDS Ride-9, Dan Pallotta and his for-profit company is not necessarily more inherently evil than any other for-profit event producer. Acknowledging that it takes more money to raise more money, these smaller nonprofits say that receiving just a fraction of the money raised would still be a welcome addition of much-needed funds.

"When we were approached, we talked about it at the office, and really, it was a no-brainer," said David Wallace, spokesman for the Black Coalition on AIDS. The organization is not required to put up any money or other resources, he said, and because fundraising and marketing minimums are up to the coalition's discretion, "we

don't have anything to lose."

Although organization members had their concerns about Pallotta practices, they weren't necessarily impressed with SFAF's handling of the dispute, either. Furthermore, said Wallace, "I called SFAF before we accepted the offer because I wanted to talk to them about it. They never bothered calling us back."

SFAF spokesman Gustavo Suárez said he was unaware of any unreturned phone calls, but maintained that the organization has for a long time made public its concerns over Pallotta Teamworks.

"The public has been very aware of the reasons for our decisions to break from Pallotta," said Suárez, noting that key legal papers and documentation of alleged "gross improprieties" can be found on the SFAF Web site at [www.sfaf.org](http://www.sfaf.org). "The decision for other nonprofits to be a beneficiary is completely up to their boards. It's their call. But for us, it was unacceptable to accept charitable contributions under the conditions with which Pallotta operates."

Wallace said he is encouraged by Pallotta's new focus on smaller agencies that need the money the most. The Black Coalition on AIDS, he said, will split 15 percent of the net profits with more than a dozen smaller nonprofits, such as the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, AIDS Project East Bay, Face to Face Sonoma County AIDS Network, AIDS Resources, Information, and Services of Santa Clara County, Diablo Valley AIDS Center of Contra Costa County, and

AIDS Community Research, the designated Bay Area beneficiaries. To Wallace, making \$10,000 to \$20,000 is probably a realistic expectation, and for the minimal effort that is required of his organization, that's just fine with him.

As it is with Bill Hirsh, executive director of San Francisco's AIDS Legal Referral Panel, who said he has received no expected percentages and has no set monetary goal in mind.

"We're happy to be a beneficiary," said Hirsh. "The AIDS Ride has brought in millions of dollars to support AIDS causes and is an effective tool at bringing in people not normally engaged in philanthropy."

Both Hirsh and Wallace credit the AIDS Project Los Angeles, Pallotta's main beneficiary for this year's event, with negotiating an agreement that they believe will provide for adequate accountability and fair returns.

While Pallotta's ride likely could still raise six-figure sums to fight HIV/AIDS, the proceeds will be distributed in small portions among local participating nonprofits. SFAF and the L.A. Center, on the other hand, stand to see at least 50 percent of whatever is earned by AIDS/LifeCycle in the first year, with better returns in the years that follow. What it will come down to for potential riders, then, is who they wish to support and how much they want their favorite Bay Area organizations to receive.

SFAF's LifeCycle is scheduled for May 13-19; the Pallotta's AIDS Ride is scheduled for June 2-8. ▽

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# Evertz seeks to ease fears of AIDS community

by Matthew S. Bajko

Responding to concerns that the Bush administration's AIDS advisory council will push a conservative agenda, the president's openly gay AIDS adviser wants to form an ad hoc committee composed of community members working in HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

"It would be an informal association of individuals who would keep the AIDS policy office in-

formed of what is going on in HIV prevention and care," said Scott Evertz, director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy. "I've been thinking for a long time how to involve people actually doing the work - people who are energized by the process of working to influence government."

The ad hoc committee could be formed within months if its creation is not mired in red tape, said Evertz, who announced his plans for the ad hoc committee at

a joint meeting of San Francisco's HIV Health Services and HIV Prevention planning councils Thursday, January 24.

"The people on our council are good people. But they aren't clients of TARC," said Evertz, who had visited with a transgender support group at the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center during a five-day visit to San Francisco.

His announcement came two days after the appointment of Tom Coburn - a former congress-

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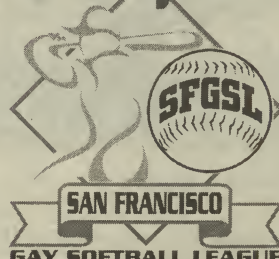
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# Throw the guy a bone

by Jane Warner

**S**anchez between 16th and 17th, January 20, 3 p.m.: Troy Warner (no relation to this writer) and his rottweiler puppy Zeke were in the habit of spending their Sundays in San Francisco. Warner would drive from his home in Santa Clara to church in the Castro, locking the 3-month-old canine in the car while he attended services. Zeke's reward was a long walk through the city well into the af-



Missing: "Zeke" the rottweiler

ternoon.

But on a recent Sunday, Warner returned to his car to find that Zeke was gone. The window had been open about an inch so that Zeke could have fresh air, and a thief was able to enter the vehicle, taking Zeke, a knapsack of dog treats and supplies, and Warner's cell phone.

A distraught Warner is now asking the public for help in retrieving his beloved companion.

Zeke is small but growing quickly. He is a purebred rottweiler with a cropped tail and black and brown markings. He was last seen wearing a blue har-

ness. He knows and responds to his name. He is gentle with children and very friendly overall. Anyone with information is urged to call Animal Care and Control at (415) 554-6364 and mention the San Francisco Police Department case number 020086557. Warner is also accepting calls with any leads or tips at (408) 489-3859.

## Rude awakening

**Peet's Coffee, 2257 Market Street, January 24, 5:20 a.m.:** While opening up the store for morning business hours, a clerk was approached from behind by a man who started to push her through the front door. Screaming for help, the clerk pushed back, but the suspect pulled a silver semi-automatic handgun from his waistband and threatened, "If you don't stop screaming, I'll shoot you." He

was joined by a second suspect and together they pushed the clerk to the back of the store. The gunman demanded to know where the safe was located, but the clerk told him she didn't know. Angry, he pushed her to the ground and sat on top of her, putting the tip of the gun in her mouth. Screaming, "Bitch, where's the money? Where's the safe?" the man began to strike the woman on the face and head with the butt of the gun. Fearing for her life, the clerk showed the suspects the safe. When threatened with death once again, she opened the safe. The suspects took a blue deposit bag, a tan deposit box, and a black binder with the word "tips" written on it and fled out of the store in an unknown direction. The clerk called 911, but responding officers could not find the suspects. The men are described as African American, 25-30 years old. Suspect number one is 5 feet

8 inches tall, 175 pounds, and was wearing a black beanie cap, black Raiders jacket, black sweatshirt, and black baggy pants. He carried a silver handgun and was clean shaven with a round face and large lips that were lighter than the rest of his complexion. Suspect number two is 5 feet 11 inches, 155 pounds, and was wearing a dark beanie cap and dark clothing. Anyone with information is asked to call (415) 553-1201.

## Foot in mouth

**Dolores and 17th, January 24, 11:15 a.m.:** A man driving by the intersection of 17th and Dolores saw another man kick in the window of a parked car. The glass shattered and the suspect reached in and took two pairs of shoes from the back seat, then ran southbound on Dolores. Seeing the owner of the car come out, the

witness stopped him and told him what happened. Irrate, the owner got into the man's car and they drove around looking for the suspect. They found him at 16th and Mission, standing next to a pair of brown Skechers and white Adidas sneakers. The owner approached the man, and the suspect asked him if he wanted to buy a pair of shoes. Astonished at being asked to buy his own shoes, the man reached down and grabbed his stolen foot gear, then ran. The suspect gave chase but as they rounded the corner, a police cruiser drove by. The 21-year-old show thief was taken to Mission Station and booked for auto burglary and possession of stolen property. ▼

**The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559-9955.**

# Jury expert critical of Whipple trial questionnaire

by Ed Walsh

**T**he president of a well-known jury consulting firm is blasting the 30-page questionnaire handed out to potential jurors in the Diane Whipple dog mauling case for not asking would-be jurors about their attitudes toward gays and lesbians.

"It's a major mistake," David Graeven, Ph.D., of Trial Behavior Consulting Inc., told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The trial got under way last week in Los Angeles with jury selection in the case against Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel, caretakers of the dogs involved in the fatal mauling. The questionnaire contains 103 questions aimed at weeding out jurors with bias or strong opinions on the case. Graeven said he was very surprised that none of those questions dealt with attitudes about the rights of gay people.

"This questionnaire does not reflect the kind of care and thoughtfulness that you would get

in a normal, high-profile case," said Graeven. "They thought a hell of a lot about dogs. If I had to pick, I think I would get rid of some of the dog questions and get to some of the more politically sensitive issues."

The questionnaire includes 38 questions about dogs, covering the range from questions asking for opinions about leash laws and dog breeds, to asking a potential juror whether she or he is "a dog person" or "a cat person."

Trial Behavior Consulting Inc. is not involved in the Whipple case, but its consultants are following the case closely. Coincidentally, TBCI got first-hand experience of the jury selection process in the Whipple case because one of its research assistants in its Los Angeles office was among the jury pool who was asked to fill out a questionnaire. The assistant was later dismissed because of the connection with TBCI.

Whipple's partner of seven years, Sharon Smith, is among those being called to testify in the

case. Graeven believes that jurors will know that Whipple was a lesbian whether or not that's clearly stated during the trial.

"What we've talked about in this office is whether [Whipple's] sexual orientation is going to come out," said Graeven. "I don't know if [Smith] is going to present herself as a partner or roommate at trial, but our belief is that jurors will either know or be able to tell that [Whipple] was a lesbian."

Most of the potential jurors raised their hands when asked by San Francisco County Superior Court Judge James Warren if they've heard about the case. Since it was widely reported that Whipple was a lesbian, many of the selected jurors likely will already know Whipple's sexual orientation going into the trial.

## Hurts both sides?

Graeven believes that not asking about attitudes toward gay people could work against both the prosecution and defense. He

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# Hundreds turn out for Diane Whipple vigil

by Cynthia Laird

About 200 people attended a candlelight march and vigil Saturday, January 26, to mark the one-year anniversary of the horrific death of Diane Whipple, who was mauled by two dogs outside her Pacific Heights apartment. Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, marched with the group from 19th and Collingwood Street in the Castro to a somber vigil held at Dolores Park.

The criminal trial for Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel, the caretakers of the dogs, started last week in Los Angeles. Smith said that she plans to testify (See story, page 4).

"We're here first and foremost, to honor Diane Alexis Whipple," said Molly McKay of Marriage Equality California, "and to support Sharon as her widow."

McKay noted that Smith had become sort of an accidental activist. After Whipple's death, Smith found she had no legal right to sue for wrongful death. As a result, Smith championed AB25, the bill sponsored by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco). AB25 became law at the beginning of the year, and, among other provisions, gives same-sex couples comparable rights in civil court cases.

Last Saturday was a difficult day for Smith, she told a group of



Sharon Smith, left, at the vigil

reporters shortly before the 5 p.m. march. It was at about that time that Whipple was attacked.

"The one-year anniversary is very hard," Smith said. "It's especially difficult with the trial starting. It's incredibly difficult and there are a lot of memories."

Smith said that Whipple was a fighter and an athlete; Whipple coached lacrosse at St. Mary's College. "She was a very jovial person," Smith said.

Smith did not have much to say about Noel and Knoller, but noted that from the beginning, they have attempted to blame Whipple for the attack.

At Dolores Park, Supervisor

Mark Leno briefly addressed the crowd, and noted that Smith had "taken her private grief and literally changed the world" regarding her civil lawsuit against Noel and Knoller, which a judge ruled last year could proceed.

Former Supervisor Harry Britt, who is running against Leno for the 13th Assembly District seat, was also in attendance.

The Reverend Penny Nixon, pastor at MCC-San Francisco, led a moment of silence in honor of Whipple.

"I think there's anger tonight, and tenderness," Nixon said. "One thing Sharon Smith has done is kept those two things - love and anger - in balance. We honor the love she [Diane Whipple] and Sharon shared."

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and one of Smith's lawyers in the civil case, also spoke.

"She [Diane] wanted to see what was going on tonight," Kendell said, referring to clear night skies after a day of rain. "That spirit touched me from the first time I met Sharon."

"We're here for one reason, to remember Diane and that might be difficult as the weeks continue and we hear lurid details out of L.A. [site of the criminal trial]," Kendell said. "Her life matters, her death was senseless, but her spirit lives on." ▼

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## OPEN FORUM

## The (anti) condom man

President Bush's recent decision to name former Oklahoma Congressman Tom Coburn as co-chair of his AIDS advisory panel sends shivers through the LGBT and AIDS communities. Coburn, after all, is the conservative Republican who has railed against HIV prevention programs that include condoms and — with the help of gadfly Michael Petrelis — has accused many AIDS organizations of fiscal mismanagement and has advocated mandatory HIV testing. It's ironic that Petrelis worked with Coburn when he was in Congress, given Petrelis's role in pushing the Department of Public Health to institute a condom distribution program in local bars and other businesses. But, like so much of what Petrelis did before he was jailed last year on felony and misdemeanor charges of threatening and harassing HIV/AIDS workers and members of the media, his work with Coburn only succeeded in helping to demonize gay men in the eyes of many Republicans. That continues to this day among the firebrand conservatives who still dominate the Republican Party, despite what Log Cabin Republicans may think.

Now, Coburn is back, as a co-chair of the president's AIDS advisory council. While he is just one of many people recently named to the panel, his newfound leadership role, while advisory only, could lead to damaging changes in HIV prevention programs if, say, condoms were no longer a part of such programs.

There is a silver lining, however, and that comes in the form of Scott Evertz, Bush's openly gay AIDS policy adviser. Evertz was in San Francisco last week and met with numerous AIDS organizations. He also told us in clear terms that he would be the person ultimately taking the panel's recommendations to the president. Evertz said he does not see a wholesale dismantling of prevention programs, including those that involve

condom distribution, despite the involvement of Coburn and another abstinence-only believer, Patricia Funderburk Ware, with the advisory panel. Unlike Bush's recent appointments, Evertz does not strike us as a rigid ideologue, but rather as someone who can use his connections with administration officials to continue funding for AIDS services and HIV prevention work.

Evertz admitted that the job of advising Bush on HIV/AIDS issues won't be easy. "I see the task force struggling with some issues," he said, referring to the panel Coburn now helps lead. But

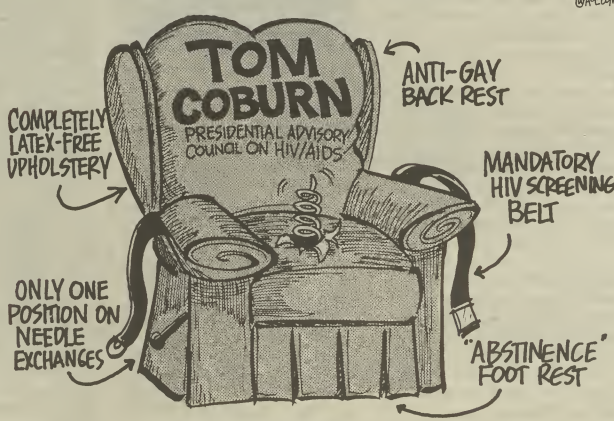
Coburn isn't the only co-chair; Louis Sullivan, a former surgeon general, is the other co-chair, and he is seen as the voice of moderation on the panel. He is also African American and should help direct the panel's discussion and recommendations of the epidemic as it relates to communities of color. As Evertz noted, infection rates in communities of color speak to the need for more targeted prevention, not less.

Yes, Evertz is walking a tightrope, he told us, and he has the challenge of getting conservative Republicans to think outside the box when it comes to AIDS. We hope he's up to the task. ▼



Editorial

## THE "UN-EASY" CHAIR



## Keep Positive Resource alive!

by Jim Mitulski

Positive Resource Center (and its predecessor, AIDS Benefits Counselors) is one of the best things our community has created from living through an entire generation of the AIDS years. I feel as strongly and as emotionally about PRC as I did about PFLAG when I was first coming out over 25 years ago. Just as I was moved then to know that someone believed in me and in my potential at a time when my self-esteem was low, I experience the same gratitude toward this esteemed agency that says to people living with HIV: you are not alone, your life is not over, your present is rich with possibilities, you have a future.

If you are a person with HIV you know what I am talking about; if you are not, ask someone who is, and I guarantee he or she will tell you that PRC is the hope mechanism. It's there for you when you are overwhelmed by your medical situation and facing decisions about retirement, health insurance, and financial decision that could impact the quality of the rest of your life. It's there for you if you decide to re-enter the work force, helping you navigate a system that makes it easier to stay off work rather than re-engage it. It is there without judgment to help you acquire skills to change or start careers even if you never did so before the disease.

For some of us it's a second chance, for some a first chance, and is just as important as primary medical care in helping us use the time we have as well as we can. It's practical. It's one place where the GLBT community has incorporated an economic analysis into our liberation agenda. It's the hope place. And it freely serves every aspect of our community, including those we have not always been eager to include, and beyond — men and women, the poor, transgendered, people currently using drugs, people of every race in proportion to who have HIV in San Francisco, and those for whom access to benefits has always been difficult. Almost 90 percent of their clients are low or very low

income according to federal poverty standards. This is our community, too.

Positive Resource Center's current financial crisis reveals the challenge of continually living with this disease. It mirrors the experience of many people living with HIV. Living with a chronic and potentially manageable illness can be harder than facing a terminal disease, one with a certain trajectory. Living with HIV today means changing as the disease changes, being flexible, and constantly reinventing yourself for the long haul. This is the same challenge right now.

We still need Positive Resource Center to do HIV-specific benefits counseling. We still need PRC to help people brush up on or acquire new job skills. We still need PRC to provide professional and peer support for people with HIV constructing their futures.

Like many nonprofits, PRC's zeal to provide services to people with HIV perhaps made them overly dependent on government resources. With the Bush administration's likelihood of flat funding or reducing federal funds for HIV care and prevention programs, and with its recent announcement of a token \$200 million contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, it's increasingly clear that our community-based health organizations cannot rely on government subsidies to provide vital services. An uncertain economy has also made people more cautious about their charitable giving, and PRC is feeling that crunch. Now, more than ever, all of us have to step up to the plate to make sure that our best and most creative organizations, including and especially PRC, not only survive but are adequately resourced to meet the needs of the largest number ever of people living with HIV. This is the time to expand services, not to cut back on them.

Positive Resource Center's board and staff are doing their part, exercising due diligence in reorganizing for the future. Like their clients who have had to re-orient quickly, this situation is evoking strength

and insight and determination that perhaps they did not know they possessed. They have cut staff from every level, and reduced expenses, and are embarking on an aggressive fundraising campaign. I remember a few years ago when Lyon Martin Women's Health Clinic faced the similar need to reinvent. The community rallied around the clinic, bought it some time, and now it continues to be an international example of women's self-determined health care. We need to express our hope in PRC at this time and give it a similar chance. We must not let PRC become another casualty of this epidemic. We have the capacity and the financial resources to save this organization, for our own self-respect and for each other, in memory of those who have benefited from it in the past who aren't here now to contribute.

Here's my dream, and it's an achievable one: every person with HIV equipped to maximize every benefit available to them, every person with HIV equipped to reinvent themselves to live into the future as productively as they can, every person living with HIV assured that we are all in this together. Let's empower PRC to continue to be an international model of HIV self-empowerment. I am writing a check for \$100, and hoping 400 others will join me in investing this in us and in our futures. This money will buy a little breathing space for PRC as it make adjustments so the organization can be here for all of us for the duration.

Let's keep PRC alive. ▼

Donations to Positive Resource Center may be sent to 973 Market Street, 6th floor, San Francisco CA 94103. Telephone: (415) 777-0333. On the Web: www.positiveresource.org.

Jim Mitulski is the co-chair of the HIV Health Services Planning Council and the executive director of Rainbow Adult Community Housing.



## LETTERS

## A woman at the helm

I got a gripe. The Stop AIDS Project is ostensibly the one organization in the queerest town on the planet that exclusively serves the needs of gay and bisexual men. As a matter of fact they have put that first and foremost in their communications as they responded to the concerns raised about their programming. The B.A.R. reported in December that Nancy Pelosi pointed out the importance of having an agency that focuses on gay and bisexual men, the group that is most disparately affected by HIV infection. So I guess I don't get it, when Stop AIDS hires a woman to lead the agency that is charged with organizing the gay and bisexual men's community.

Now, I can come up with all sorts of politically correct arguments that could rationalize this, but I have got to think that there would be a big question raised if a man were hired to lead a lesbian organization, or if a Caucasian were hired to lead an African American organization. As queer men, I guess we have just decided that we are not important enough to apply the same rule to ourselves that we would apply to other disenfranchised groups.

So it took the Stop AIDS board a full year, which had to cost a lot of money in recruitment costs, to decide that they should hire someone not from the "target community." I guess with that kind of leadership in place, maybe we should ask the question if the important work of queer men's HIV prevention is too important to be in the hands of an agency this incompetent.

Tony Reynolds  
San Francisco

## Milk died for this?

Look at the recent letters and news reports in the B.A.R. The gay politicians in this town are tearing each other to shreds, and all in the name of "progressive politics." Is this what Harvey Milk died for?

Arthur Evans  
San Francisco

## Undecided but disappointed

Having worked with Eileen Hansen at the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, I was sorely disappointed to read her spin on the Harry Britt-Mark Leno controversy [Mailstrom, January 24]. Talk about a pot calling a kettle black! Calling for the reassignment of Joe Dignan, due to conflict of interest, what indeed would Eileen call her interest in the race?

Rather than attack Joe Dignan, whom I do not know, and the B.A.R. to side with Harry Britt based solely on his record in the community, why not ask Richard Hongisto or Beverly Wagstaff what indeed they heard said at the alleged incident, after all they were there.

I agree it would be better to focus on the issues but are you really doing that by listing past "below the belt" misdeeds on the part of the Leno camp?

I myself was skeptical of Britt's complicity, knowing what politics in San Francisco can be like, until I saw Harry Britt practically running away from Hank Plante during a KPIX interview. This before Hank Plante even asked a question of candidate Britt. This was not the reaction of a man with a clear conscious, nor one I would consider statesmanlike.

As for Harry Britt's assertion that it was Mark Leno's duty to challenge him on the spot about what he thought was said, that does not take into consideration the shock I am sure Mark as well as others felt, additionally it was politically naive of Britt to think his opponent would not take those words and run with them during an election.

I have yet to decide which of the two candidates I will be supporting, but the way Britt has mishandled the situation is giving me a pretty good idea.

James Campbell  
San Francisco

## Sticking with Britt

Please allow me to reiterate my request of the B.A.R. from a few months ago on the 13th Assembly District race: would you at least pretend to be more invested in the race's issues than in bizarre tabloidism? Harry Britt procured the first-ever public funding for HIV/AIDS, helped defeat AIDS-phobic and homophobic legislation many times over, and lost countless friends and loved ones to the disease. How dare your paper write stories insinuating that Britt is insensitive to AIDS? I worked in Britt's office from 1991 to 1993, and during this time he had me spend much of my time on a policy reform that enabled city employees with AIDS to receive transferred sick leave hours from their co-workers. There was no question in my mind where his priorities stood.

As for your editorial's assertion that Britt lacks commitment to the public and to our community ("Alice doesn't live here...," January 24), I would reply with the following: his 14 years on the Board of Supervisors comprises more years of service in office than those of Leno, Thier, and Phillips combined. Moreover, I would argue that his labor on LGBT and HIV/AIDS issues has been more fruitful than that of the other candidates put together.

Finally, in response to Leno political consultant Robert Barnes's spin, gladly picked up by your tabloid - I mean paper: "Where has Harry been the past 10 years, if he cares about the community?" The answer is that he has been teaching political theory to college students, and teaching English to immigrants for no pay in his spare time. Last time I checked, teaching was still an honorable and community-minded activity.

But perhaps we would feel better served by Leno, whose non-supervisory resume consists mainly of running a business. Or better yet, maybe we should look for community guidance to political consultants who feed stories to B.A.R. editors. Then, like Robert Barnes, we could convince LGBT clubs, like Alice B. Toklas, to fund TV commercials that aim to incite homophobia in the electorate, and repel voters from gay candidates for mayor. (If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes during the last race, I never would have believed that members of our own community would stoop so low to elect a straight man.) If we adopted civic-minded role models like these, we would never have to worry about the pesky idea of an LGBT community member as mayor.

In March, voters can elect the former supervisor with a much more extensive background with local and state government, or the current supervisor with much less experience. I'd vote for the more experienced teacher and community activist over the businessman any day. I'll stick with Britt, thanks.

Seth Ubogy  
San Francisco

## Former Britt staffer weighs in

As someone who worked as Supervisor Harry Britt's legislative aide for five years (1988-1993) I want to let your readers know that Harry led the fight against HIV with every ounce of his heart and soul. The entire office fought constantly for increased funding, services, and public policy protection for people with HIV - all while responding to hundreds of HIV related constituent calls for help. Nothing, absolutely nothing was more important to Harry and the staff, and we all often worked around the clock to do everything we could while fighting back our own tears of personal loss of friends, lovers, and co-workers. From my experience, Harry Britt has been a hero in this struggle and I was proud to be part of his extraordinary team.

Rick Ruvalo  
San Francisco

## Quizzing the candidates

I recently had the chance to talk with a few candidates running for California Assembly for the 12th and 13th districts. What I found out was rather interesting. This information came from talking with some of them at the National Women's Political Caucus endorsement meeting that took place on January 10.

First of all, I asked Supervisor Leland Yee why he voted against the benefits offered to transgender city employees. He said that his main reason for voting against the benefits was because he didn't want money or benefits to be taken away from retirement benefits offered to all employees, which he helped secure while being on the board a few years back.

This sounded like a logical enough and a decent answer. However, what I found out from Supervisor Mark Leno was that Yee voted against it because it he just wanted to. Leno also told me that Yee voted against the LGBT youth shelter in the Castro. That was the last straw for me and I vow never to vote for Yee again.

Kelly's track record in support of LGBT issues is impeccable and Kelly has received the endorsement of Board of Education President Jill Wynns and others. He also received the recommendation of the NWPC over Yee. Now, those ladies know a quality candidate.

Kelly did tell me that he'd rather be working with Harry Britt in Sacramento because Leno just seemed too timid and not independent enough to take on the big issues against those that he may have to be a little afraid of politically. However, I've seen Leno be more independent since his re-election over Eileen Hansen in 2000. Leno has proven himself with independence on many issues since then, but even he needs to stand up a little more against homophobia and transphobia from allies that aren't really supportive of our community, like Leland Yee.

Also Harry Britt wasn't anywhere to be seen at the NWPC endorsement event. In fact, I haven't seen Britt out too much at all. Come on Harry, where are you? Also, as a young HIV-positive queer, I was a little upset to hear about his crack to Mark Leno about young gay men transmitting diseases. That's a cheap shot! I don't know who to believe in any of these races anymore.

Now, what about Holli Thier? She did get the local NWPC endorsement. Thier needs to pull in the progressives that Britt's winning over and the leather community that is Leno's strong base. I suggested to her campaign manager that she show up at a beer benefit or two. She's a little shy and needs to get a little more sex-positive and out there to represent District 13 in Sacramento. She should ask Carole Migden

next page ►

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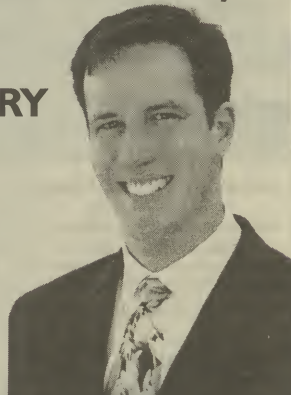
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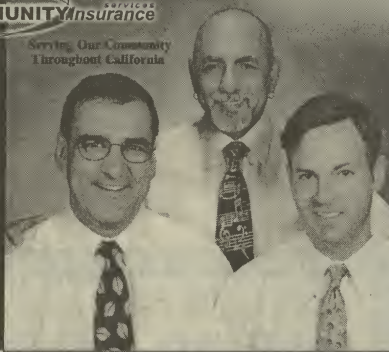


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## Mailstrom

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for some pointers; Carole's got balls of steel and did an awesome job representing us in Sacramento. Thier's a little too much a femme for District 13, but I wouldn't mind seeing her in Sacramento one day.

One thing's for sure, as a Green Party voter and candidate for the San Francisco Green Party County Council, I'm glad I don't have to vote in these primaries for these candidates. They're all a little too weak, homophobic, wishy-washy, or mean-spirited. Where's the one with heart?

I would, however, recommend to all the Democrats I know to vote for Dr. Dan Kelly for District 12 and Supervisor Mark Leno for District 13. Kelly's got a long way to knock Yee out, but I think he can do it. Leno needs to get over some fears and bad alliances and grab Carole Migden's tiara and spirit and kick Yee off the political stage.

Britt and Thier need to go shopping together, with her class and his crass, they'd be great bargain hunters at Macy's. They'd also be fun to have tea with or play a game of charades with.

However, I'd be wary of Steve Phillips, who is Mayor Brown's handpicked candidate; he's the wild card.

Oh, I did get the recommendation of the NWPC myself and I'm very honored and will take that support seriously and build on their issues as an elected official of the GPCC.

Seth Watkins  
San Francisco

## Just another sleazy politician

It was with great interest that I read the letters to the editor commenting on your paper's coverage of the Britt/Leno brouhaha. But the real ha-has came after reading your reporter Joe Dignan's defense of how your paper handled the affair followed by Wayne Friday's laughable comments. Dignan says that Mark Leno called him personally to tell him about Britt's tasteless joke. This indicates of course that Leno wanted to see it printed in your paper to get some mileage for his campaign. What is really astounding is that Wayne Friday, in the same issue of your paper declares, apparently with a straight face, that Leno is taking the "political high road" over Britt's joke and adds "Leno is a first-class dude, and from where I sit he looks like a statesman over the incident..."

Just how is calling the press to get maximum publicity for an offhand comment damaging to his opponent acting like a statesman? Just another sleazy politician if you ask me.

Greg Reeder  
San Francisco

## Leno's fears

Yeah, sure. Mark Leno is just the person we need in our Assembly — someone who's afraid to prevent the gentrification of genuine neighborhoods for fear of offending big business, afraid to do anything about the homeless problem for fear of offending the homeless, afraid to keep people from trashing our streets with litter for fear of offending those who like to do that, and afraid to get anything useful done for fear of offending those who think he should just sit and stare into space like a good, politically correct, fascist zombie — just one of hundreds of thousands in this city. Oh no, wait, that's what he did as our supervisor all these years. My bad.

You can show 'em how it's done, Harry Britt.

Anthony Rhody  
San Francisco

## Unify community

Time after time I read articles concerning how the "rights" of queers have expanded, then an article about how the "rights" of queers have taken a back step or there is a roadblock ahead. The roadblocks need to be identified and the gay community needs to unite and move to knock down these roadblocks. We are not united enough to overcome the "religious, family values" coalitions, i.e. the Salvation Army and the "queer" money boycott. The fact that phony money donated to the Army's bell-ringers was almost negligible proves there is almost negligible unity in the gay world. The right hand, indeed, does not know what the left hand is doing. The fact there are even gays within the Republican Party backing candidates that are so far right as to be left is deplorable. George W. Bush is not a friend of gay rights, in fact he is not a friend of many outside "family values." The direction Bush is taking our country is frightening. If this man continues then gay people will eventually have to fight another Stonewall. Keep your eyes on this man and his party. But let's get united and show where we stand with the almighty dollars that talk.

A.J. Harris  
Oakland, California

## All created equal

This is in response to "Assert our human rights," [Guest Opinion, January 3].

In his pamphlet, "Responding to the Gay Agenda," Chuck Colson says, "[Gay activists] believe that proof of a gay gene would facilitate their drive for full ac-

ceptance of homosexuality in all areas of society."

In "New Creations," *Family Voice*, March/April 2001, it is said, "Nothing angers the homosexual community more than experiences of deliverance, which refute the notion that homosexuality is unchangeable — an essential element of the 'gay agenda,' if they truly 'born that way,' homosexuals can demand special civil rights."

Klein, Sepikoff, and Wolf, in their article "Sexual Orientation: A Multi-Variable Dynamic Process," (1985) refer to the Kinsey Scale (which ranges from exclusively heterosexual to exclusively homosexual). They have devised the "Klein Sexual Orientation Grid" in which the variables are sexual attraction, sexual behavior, sexual fantasies, emotional preference, self-identification, and hetero/gay lifestyle.

Rather, as the Declaration of Independence puts it, "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness..."

However, the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says that "... nor shall any person be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

Robert V. Wood  
San Francisco

## Revive Roman holiday

In the *Bay Area Reporter*, John Cailleau writes openly "In praise of sex workers" [Mailstrom, January 24]. In the same spirit, we propose reviving the ancient Roman holiday of Robigalia, which was dedicated to sex workers, on or around April 25.

Tortuga Bi Liberty, San Francisco  
Richard Cornwall, Ph.D., San Francisco  
Theresa Reed (Darklady), Portland, Oregon  
Bill Lindley, San Diego, California

## More on sex workers

I read with great interest John Cailleau's letter to the editor, "In praise of sex workers." I believe I am the first published author who, as a satisfied client, came out with a book praising such workers for their invaluable service to the gay community (*A Consumer's Guide to Male Hustlers*, Harrington Park Press, 1998). In April of this year, the same publisher will release my second book on the subject, *Sex Workers As Virtual Boyfriends*.

Joseph Itiel  
San Francisco

## Objects to Dean film coverage

I can't decide whether your film comment of January 17 ("Angry youth") is an attempt at a spoof or just a badly done and radically inaccurate take on James Dean and his movie work.

I guess I just have to assume that Tavo Amador has never seen *East of Eden* or *Rebel Without A Cause*, and that's why he gets it wrong.

You print a still photo of Dean and Natalie Wood with the hilarious caption, "James Dean is a bad influence on Natalie Wood in *Rebel Without A Cause*." That is truly ridiculous, since in that film he is a good influence on her. He's shown having respect for her, being kind to her, delighting her, caring for her. So unless Tavo is viewing the drama from a parent's standpoint — her parents — it is bullshit.

I have been a student of the phenomenon of James Dean, I did a master's thesis, and I know the screenwriter Stewart Stern. I have seen and studied all of his films for many years. I don't have any desire to throw my rank around, but I can't let this nonsense, this drive, pass without a strenuous protest.

*Rebel* is not inconsistent (it even follows Aristotelian unities of time, place); it isn't misogynistic. Nothing in character or story shows hatred of women. And there is no self-pitying tone. Sorry, Tavo. Three strikes — out. *Rebel* is not Dean's best performance. That is clearly *East of Eden*. *Eden* is a better written screenplay, and Kazan coaxed a miraculous performance out of the actor he chose "because he hated all fathers." He even cajoled Dean into getting a strong emotional reaction out of Raymond Massey by having Dean say "piss, shit, fuck" instead of "and the Lord said to" in the dinner scene with the Bible; Massey could not stand profanity in front of women. *Rebel* was written for Dean by Stern and Nick Ray — it is thus a lesser work, though an important one — mostly for plugging into the youth-zeitgeist of the early 1950s (which were not fabulous, Tavo, they were frightened and dumb, the silent generation). It was topical and "relevant" whereas *Eden* was universal and timeless. I suspect that Tavo doesn't like *Giant's* Jeff Rink because he is no longer the small boy/adolescent of the first two films, so not any longer so cute. Oh yes, the color in *Rebel* is not used like a "sledgehammer" as asserted by Tavo. Sorry there are many subtleties which I could enumerate at some length, including the dreamy scenes in the abandoned house and the scenes at the planetarium.

But why go on? Tavo, if he's not spoofing, is as wrong-headed an observer as I've ever come across.

Holman Monell  
Berkeley, California



## POLITICS

# Democrats line up to take on Bush in '04

by Wayne Friday

With the latest polls still showing George W. Bush's wartime approval ratings hovering above 80 percent, and with some of those polls indicating that his appeal goes beyond the terror war, prospective Democratic candidates have begun lining up to take on the Republican president in the 2004 election.

The Battleground Poll, conducted by well-known pollsters **Celinda Lake** (a Democrat) and **Ed Goetz** (a Republican), was taken the week of January 6, and the usually reliable poll shows that when voters were asked which party was better able to improve the country on issues like education, family and moral values, Republicans were on top 48 percent to 32 percent.

This is a reversal of historic trends, which in the 1990s gave Democrats double-digit advantages. The poll's margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points. The poll found that women voters in particular — mainly white suburban women — seem to have switched their allegiance to the Republican Party in part because of Bush's ability to at least seem focused on education and because of a renewed advantage on "values" issues. Also, because the terrorist attacks of last September took place on American soil, women appear far more inclined to view the U.S. military response more favorably than in past years. All of this tends to favor any commander-in-chief — in this case, President Bush.

While some Democratic Party leaders seem concerned that Republicans are indeed regaining an edge on so-called values issues, Democrats still really be more concerned that Bush seems to be co-opting longtime key Democratic issues, including education and keeping America prosperous.

Another worrisome finding for Democrats is that the poll found that for the first time more voters are identifying themselves as Republicans rather than Democrats.

The same poll, however, showed the measure of "voting behavior" — that is, how people actually intend to vote. There, Democrats still enjoy a lead over Republicans, 46 percent to 43 percent, and shows that economic issues, slowly returning to the forefront after the terrorist attacks, still largely favor Democrats in this fall's election.

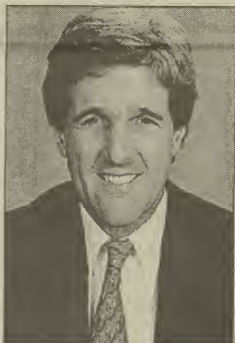
So, does all this mean that Bush's high approval ratings will discourage Democratic candidates from taking him on in 2004? Not for a minute. Democratic members of the U.S. Senate, in particu-

lar, are already plotting possible campaigns and lining up to oppose Bush for a second term, mindful that the incumbent is at just about where his father was back in 1991 before a relatively unknown governor from Arkansas beat him when he ran for a second term a year later.

First, Senator **Tom Daschle** (D-South Dakota), the Senate majority leader and one of the smoothest politicians in Washington, made a major speech recently accusing Bush and the Republicans of pushing through a tax cut that worsened the recession.

A week or so later, Senator **Joseph Lieberman** (D-Connecticut), gave a major speech at Georgetown University on the recession, campaign finance reform, and featured foreign policy remarks that included a direct call for the overthrow of **Saddam Hussein** of Iraq.

Lieberman was a very popular running mate of **Al Gore**'s in the 2000 election (the Gore-Lieberman ticket won the popular vote by more than half a million votes), and is definitely considering entering the 2004 presidential sweepstakes.



Massachusetts senator John Kerry

Another Democratic senator, **John Kerry** (Massachusetts), made a major speech last week criticizing the Bush administration's energy plan as "old thinking" that would not help end the country's dependence on foreign oil, and all but personally blamed Bush and his oil millionaire cronies in the administration as well as his close oil friends from Texas for keeping America hostage to terrorism and what could become an endless war on terrorism. Kerry, himself a Vietnam War combat hero, not only is from Massachusetts like his political hero, **John F. Kennedy**, but actually reminds many of the late president. Kerry says that the United States must unshackle itself from dependence on foreign

oil and criticizes the Bush administration for not championing new sources of energy.

## Politics and people

Mayor **Willie Brown** told reporters in Washington last week that should Proposition 45 lose next month he would definitely be interested in running for the state Senate. "Sacramento is not exactly a first choice, but I would do it because I think San Francisco needs to have effective leadership," the mayor said. The decision on whether Brown returns to Sacramento, however, turns on whether state Senate President Pro Tem **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) will be leaving his seat in 2004. While legislative term limit restrictions require Burton to step down then, the term limit measure (Proposition 45) would allow current and future legislators to run for one more term beyond the current limit.

In the closely watched Democratic primary for the 13th Assembly District, polls released by two different camps last week show Supervisor **Mark Leno** looking to be in good shape to win the nomination on March 5. A Leno campaign-commissioned poll by **David Binder** shows him at 31 percent, followed by **Harry Britt**, 15 percent; and **Steve Phillips** and **Holli Thier** with 6 percent each. Another poll by J. Moore Methods shows pretty much the same, as noted in the *Chronicle*: Leno, 32 percent; Britt, 19 percent; Thier, 7 percent; and Phillips, 2 percent. From where I sit, Leno would make a superb replacement for term-out Migden, herself a very effective legislator.

New faces: S.F. City Attorney **Dennis Herrera**, who took office earlier this month, has barely had time to learn the way around his office and the current issue of *San Francisco* magazine is already mentioning him as an "eventual" future mayor. Herrera as a future mayor of San Francisco? I wouldn't bet against it.

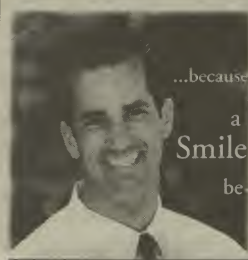
Handicapping Hinckle: My longtime friend, journalist **Warren Hinckle** recently did an "early handicap" of local races in the *San Francisco Examiner*, and while I think it is a bit early, what the hell, if Warren can go there, why can't I?

Mayor: A free-for-all with **Gavin Newsom**, **Tom Ammiano**, **Barbara Kaufman**, **Angela Alioto**, **Clint Reilly**, **Fred Lau**, **Art Agnos**, and even **John Burton** (if he's forced out of Sacramento). A total toss-up, but my early pick would be a runoff between Newsom and Ammiano (but keep an eye on Lau). The race is in 2003.

Assessor: **Doris Ward** should have the "advantage of incumbency" in the March 5 primary, but I'm not sure there is much of an advantage in her case (too much negative publicity). This one likely goes into a November runoff between Ward and challenger **Mabel Teng** (and I'm not sure Vegas would even touch that one, Warren) — and yes, there is definitely still a place in San Francisco public life for **Richard Hongisto**, but he won't make it in this race.

Public Defender: **Jeff Adachi**, the challenger in this contest, is a good lawyer, has some impressive endorsements, but incumbent Public Defender **Kimiko Burton**

next page ►



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### Clarification

Last week's item in Wayne Friday's column "Our Man Friday" about an Assembly candidate not reporting campaign contributions was inaccurate. According to the California Secretary of State's office, candidate **Holli Thier** did report the \$1,000 contribution she received from EMILY's List and a \$2,500 contribution she received from the VOICE PAC of the Operating Engineers, as required by law. According to the secretary of state's office, Thier has not raised the minimum amount required to file campaign contribution reports electronically; she has filed contribution reports in writing.





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# What was 'the house on Middagh Street'?

by Paula Martinac

In the fall of 1940, George Davis, fiction editor of *Harper's Bazaar* magazine, signed a lease on a three-story house at 7 Middagh Street in the Brooklyn Heights neighborhood of New York City and invited some of his friends to form an artists' community there. A visitor later called the residence the "House of Genius," and another dubbed it "that queer aggregate of artists." For the talented writers and musicians who lived there in the early 1940s - many of whom were gay or bisexual - the house was a temporary refuge from orthodoxy, a place to be as unconventional and openly "queer" as they liked.

Davis began looking for an inexpensive house to rent outside of Manhattan in the summer of 1940. One night, he had a vivid dream about a 19th century brownstone in Brooklyn. The next morning he took a subway to Brooklyn Heights and wandered around until he spied a "For Rent" sign at 7 Middagh (commonly pronounced "MID-dahg"). After some repairs to a building that visitors would later describe as "shabby," the first tenants moved in - including poet W.H. Auden

and his lover, poet Chester Kallman; novelist Carson McCullers; composer Benjamin Britten and his lover, tenor Peter Pears; and writers Jane and Paul Bowles.

Because Davis had a full-time job, Auden assumed the role of house manager and father figure, collecting rent, preparing menus, and hiring and firing cooks and maids. Most of the tenants paid \$25 a month for room and board, a modest sum even in the early 1940s.

Meals were taken together with Auden presiding. According to resident Golo Mann (son of Thomas), Auden expressed "instant disapproval if anyone was late for a meal. ... [He] himself ate enormously at meal times and drank impressive amounts of cheap red wine."

The house also became famous for its boisterous parties. One visitor recalled "a gay (in both senses of the word) occasion at which Auden and Gypsy Rose Lee [the exotic dancer] were present. (Gypsy did not strip, but Auden did plenty of teasing.)" In addition to musicians Britten and Pears, Auden and Carson both played the piano well, and evenings at Middagh Street often resounded with music and feverish intellectual conversation.

With so many people coming and going, the household had its share of romantic intrigue. When Auden discovered that Kallman had been unfaithful with another poet, he caused a disturbance by starting to choke his lover in their bedroom. McCullers became obsessed with fellow tenant Lee, who was almost 6 feet tall and described as having a flirtatious manner.

But there was also a great deal of serious work going on, with the residents sharing their compositions and collaborating with each other. Two of Auden's most famous collections, *Another Time* and *The Double Man*, were published while he lived on Middagh Street. Also, he and Britten joined forces on an operetta, *Paul Bunyan*, produced in early 1941.

When she moved to Middagh Street, McCullers was struggling with a draft of a novel she called *The Bride and Her Brother*. After Thanksgiving dinner in 1940, McCullers heard the squeal of a fire engine near the house. She and Lee rushed outside, running toward the firehouse at the end of the street. Suddenly, McCullers had an epiphany; she caught Lee's arm, shouted for her to stop, and cried out, "Frankie is in love with her brother and the bride, and

wants to become a member of the wedding!" Lee had no idea what McCullers was talking about, but the latter's now-classic novel got a new title that day - *The Member of the Wedding* (1946).

There was a long waiting list of artists who wanted to reside at the Middagh Street house, but the residents were picky about who could be admitted. Writer Jane Bowles (married platonically to writer Paul Bowles) once told a colleague that he wasn't famous enough to get in. Still, some residents found the frantic pace at the house distracting rather than energizing. Poet Louis MacNeice remembered trying in vain to concentrate while Britten and Pears were rehearsing in their room to one side of him and Lee was on the other side "like a whirlwind of laughter and sex." Britten eventually moved out, because, according to Pears, he disliked "bohemianism." And visitor Janet Flanner, a well-known foreign correspondent, said McCullers was enough "to drive any small town right off its rocks."

In 1941, the atmosphere on Middagh Street began changing from what McCullers called "campy" to more respectable - and much more straight. Renowned novelist Richard Wright (*Native Son*) and his wife moved in with their infant daughter, staying mostly to themselves and not partaking of community meals. By the end of the year, most of the original tenants had moved on to new phases of their lives.

Torn down in 1945 to make way for the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, 7 Middagh Street now exists only in memory. But the residents - inspired by each other and bolstered by living in a queer creative community - left an indelible mark on the world of the arts. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached care of this publication or at [P0column@aol.com](mailto:P0column@aol.com).

### Suggested reading

Carr, Virginia Spencer. 1976. *The Lonely Hunter: A Biography of Carson McCullers*. New York: Anchor Books.

Farnan, Dorothy J. 1984. *Auden in Love*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

## Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

has shown she can do this job, is a bright woman, a good lawyer, and should be an easy winner.

Assembly, 12th District: Supervisor **Leland Yee** has the campaign finances, the endorsements, and should win the Democratic nomination here easily.

Assembly, 13th District: Hinkle is right; this one is Supervisor Mark Leno's to lose. Not only is he ahead in the race and should win the Democratic nod, he's by far the best candidate and

deserves the nomination. Leno wins this.

Now, out of those above, I clearly pick two winners - Leno and Yee; you do better than that Warren, and I will owe you lunch.

Finally, my "quote of the week" is from former NYC Mayor **Rudy Giuliani**, who was asked whether gubernatorial candidate **Bill Simon** handled more civil or criminal cases when he worked for Giuliani in the U.S. attorney's office. Giuliani: "He was a switch-hitter. I mean that in the best sense; I know that phrase can have several different meanings."

And how was your week? ▼

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## COMMENTARY

# Losing victim mentality

by Paula Martinac

In recent years, the results of studies about lesbian and gay mental health have been published in abundance in both the mainstream and gay press, and those results have been, well, depressing. As many as a third of queer teens are suicidal, we're told, and gay people are much more likely to suffer from depression and mental illness than their heterosexual counterparts. But two recent studies suggest that gay youth and adults may be much less miserable than we've been led to believe – and that's welcome news.

I've always found the published results of studies about lesbian and gay mental health worrisome. They make us seem like such fragile, wounded victims of homophobia, barely able to get out of bed in the morning. I'm reminded of the unwanted pity a straight friend heaped on me when I came out to her 20 years ago. "Oh, that's such a hard life!" she said, shaking her head sadly.

But, in fact, most gay people, young and adult, function pretty well in the world. They go through the ups and downs of life much like straight people do – create relationships and have messy break-ups; love their jobs and hate their bosses; improve their finances and run into money problems. Although the discrimination gay people face in our society can sometimes be demoralizing, it's probably safe to say that many of us have not been debilitated by it.

The studies of our mental health are well-intentioned, I'm sure. They go hand in hand with the "we were born that way" theory of homosexuality. If it can be demonstrated that homophobia and anti-gay discrimination can cause people to become depressed – with teens, to the point of becoming suicidal – and if there's nothing anyone can do to change his or her sexual orientation, what



Christine Smith

better justification for trying to eliminate institutionalized prejudice?

But sometimes the results of these studies – particularly the ones that deal with gay youth – are mishandled, and not just by religious right-wingers who believe that homosexuality is a curable "condition." Gay activists, too, occasionally throw around the teen suicide figures in misleading ways. The Gay and Lesbian Community Center of South Florida, for example, has an online "Teen Suicide Fact Sheet" that uses dated statistics from studies published 10, 15, and 20-plus years ago in a way that suggests a whopping 25 to 30 percent of gay teens today may still be attempting suicide.

With those kinds of figures floating around, it's heartening that an article in the December *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* finds that the rate of gay teen suicide attempts has been exaggerated, possibly doubled. In his own surveys of gay youth, Ritch Savin-Williams, a psychologist at Cornell University, discovered that many teens who said they had attempted suicide had, in fact, really just been thinking about it. Savin-Williams further points out that most research on gay teen suicide has been conducted on troubled, at-risk kids in shelters and support groups.

In distorting the numbers of gay teens who are suicidal, the studies "pathologize gay youth," Savin-Williams told *USA Today*. Yes, gay teens can have difficult lives, but most of them, he noted, "are healthy and resilient."

The book *Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology*, edited by Amy Sonnie, provides ample testimony from gay youth who have endured a lot of pain for being queer (including a girl whose parents had her exorcised) and eventually come through it.

And what about all of us miserable gay adults? An article published last August in the *Journal of Sex Research*

(and just recently brought to public attention) finds that gay and straight adults seem to be about equally satisfied with their lives. After collecting data from seven surveys, "there was little evidence," the study's authors found, "that the behavioral dimension of sexual orientation is either strongly or directly related to quality of life, lifestyle, or health indicators." In other words, happiness isn't tied to sexual orientation – something many of us already knew.

I'm not suggesting that we take these new gay mental health studies as signs that it's time to shut down our gay youth programs or hang up the gay movement because we're all so darn happy. Of course, gay people are susceptible to depression; in fact, clinical depression has become an epidemic in the United States population in general, with millions currently taking antidepressants.

Rather, I see the studies as corroboration of the emotional durability of lesbians and gay men. We've faced great prejudice and discrimination, as many Americans have. But we don't need to be seen as victims in order to demand and attain civil rights. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at [LNcolumn@aol.com](mailto:LNcolumn@aol.com).

## Lesbian Notions

## Trannies reign supreme



Jane Philomena O'Brien

An Evening With Friends" was the theme of this year's 19th annual Transgender San Francisco Cotillion, held January 26 at the Design Center Galleria. Seven contestants vied for the title of Miss TGSF, which was won by Kalani, center. She is joined by first runner-up, Stephanie Ann, left, and second runner-up, Karen, right.

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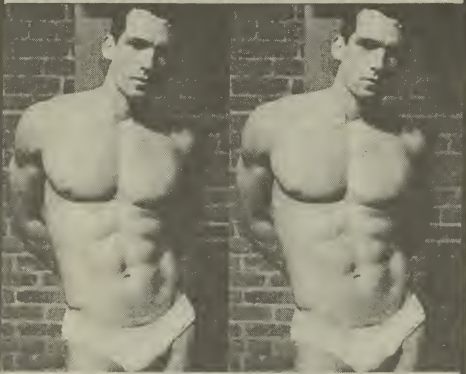
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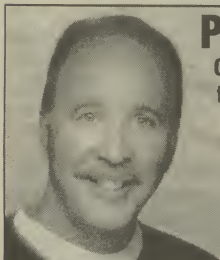
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# Thier stays positive, fights for the future

by Katie Szymanski

[Editor's note: The Democratic primary for the 13th District Assembly race is March 5. The following are profiles of the major candidates in the race: Supervisor Mark Leno, former Supervisor Harry Britt, former League of Women Voters President Holli Thier, and former school board member Steve Phillips.]

What brings a busy civil rights attorney, nonprofit founder, and public relations firm executive to the race for Assembly?

"I wanted to raise the bar," said Holli Thier, the lone lesbian – and woman – Democratic candidate vying for Assemblywoman Carole Migden's seat. Disturbed by the negative campaigning surrounding Supervisor Mark Leno and former Supervisor Harry Britt, Thier believes that "San Francisco is so progressive, we don't really see a real enemy, so we tend to fight each other. But I think that if you spend your time tearing down your opponent, that shows you're not really confident in your own record."

Thier has no such problem, taking pride in her history that includes recently serving as president of the League of Women Voters from 1999-2001. While there,



Holli Thier

she said, her mediation skills were so revered that both Supervisor Tom Ammiano and Mayor Willie Brown called upon her to negotiate and schedule their mayoral race debates.

Her position at the league was an interesting one, because to this day she is not allowed to discuss her personal positions on issues while she served the nonpartisan, generally non-endorsing organization. But she calls herself a progressive, and points to her other accomplishments: traveling throughout the state to debate against Proposition 227, which would have hurt non-English speaking students, and taking a leadership role against Proposition 209 which gutted affirmative action.

"Those experiences gave me so much insight into how conservative the rest of the state is," said Thier, "and made me realize how much more of a powerful voice we could have if we worked together on more issues. We have so much talent and so many good people here in San Francisco."

Thier comes out of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, sat on the steering committee for what became the No on Knight campaign, and served on the boards of both the Horizons Foundation and California Alliance for Pride and Equality. A 17-year resident of San Francisco (minus one year she spent in Los Angeles), Thier grew up in the East Bay and graduated from Hastings College of Law in 1988, which she credits with her ability to "take a stack of thick documents and quickly understand what's important and what can go. You have to know how to do that in the Assembly."

An assemblywoman will also have to know how to "work with diametrically opposed viewpoints and get them to sign onto bills with us," said Thier. Her armor includes her unique set of skills from many years working in a nonpartisan fashion. Thier also points to an experience while she served on the city's Democratic Central Committee, when she drafted legislation to create a more open process and it was met with "a nasty fight." In the end, however, "We got 99 percent of

what we wanted, and it passed unanimously."

She will rely on that same thick skin at the state level when she prioritizes issues like civil unions and increased funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. She is currently looking into many solutions for healthcare funding, including using tobacco settlement money in creative ways. And she wants to improve public transportation, supporting a high-speed rail between San Francisco and Los Angeles and focusing on a better ferry system to the city.

"In Europe," she observed "you can get to another country faster than you can get from here to Vallejo."

Most recently, Thier has been busy with other efforts, getting her new nonprofit off the ground for instance, an organization called Voting Counts which educates and empowers teens so that they take their opinions to the polls (she has taken a leave from the organization while she is a candidate for office).

Thier is aware of the whispers surrounding her entry into the race, some of which accuse her of splitting the gay vote at the urging of Mayor Willie Brown.

"I would never allow myself to be used like that," said Thier, adding that her relationship with the mayor is unremarkable. Furthermore, she said; she does not see herself as "taking" votes from anyone.

"I'm not running against them. I like Mark. I like Harry. We're all in this together," said Thier, who nevertheless believes it is important to fill Migden's shoes with another lesbian.

Thier is endorsed by a variety of local labor organizations, including the Teamsters Joint Council 7; Laborers Local 261; Plumber's Union Local 38; Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 104; Sanitary Truck Drivers and Helpers Local 350; Carpet Layers Local 12; Carpenters Union Local 2236; and Glaziers and Glass Workers 718. Other organizational endorsements include the National Women's Campaign Fund; the National Women's Political Caucus of San Francisco and California; the California National Organization for Women; EMILY's List; Communication Workers of America; the Mexican American Political Association; and the Barbara Jordan African American Democratic Club.

Thier is optimistic about the race, even declaring, "May the best woman win," but she said she is in it to have a positive effect on the lives of Californians.

"A lot of people don't see how serving in the Legislature really affects people's lives," she said, pointing to corporate pollution as one factor in everyday life that can kill people because of agreements to keep silent about known toxins. "Legislation can improve things like our drinking water, the air we breathe. That's what serving is about, protecting people." ▼

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# Leno vows to serve SF well in Assembly

by Matthew S. Bajko

**E**arly Tuesday morning, openly gay Supervisor Mark Leno stood at the Glen Park BART station looking for support among the commuters. With two recent polls showing the Democratic nomination for the 13th District Assembly seat is his to lose, Leno isn't leaving anything to chance.

"I am proud I self-started my campaign. I did not receive a phone call from any other political leader," said Leno of his decision to run. "My passion and commitment are fully in this race because I know I will serve San Francisco well in Sacramento."

A tireless campaigner — his car trunk is loaded with campaign fliers — Leno also owns Budget Signs Inc. and represents the Castro, Noe Valley, Glen Park, Twin Peaks and Corona Heights on the Board of Supervisors. He also serves on the board of the New Israel Fund, which works for social and economic equity in Israel.

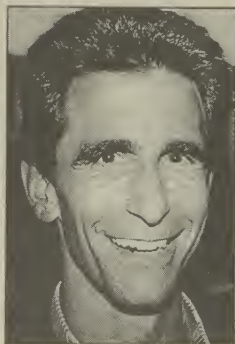
"Now you know what I do with 80 hours of my week. I never stop working," said Leno.

The fight to represent San Francisco in Sacramento is not only a political one. If he is elected, he would become one of the first openly gay men to serve in the state Legislature. Leno faces opposition from gay former Supervisor Harry Britt and other gay men are running for different Assembly seats in the state.

"There is that exciting historic aspect to this race and will without a doubt impact the way our issues are dealt with in the Assembly," said Leno, whose longtime partner Douglas Jackson died from AIDS complications in 1990.

While Leno has the endorsements of a host of elected city, state and federal officials — among them U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, state Senators Don Perata and Jackie Speier, District Attorney Terence Hallinan and City Attorney Dennis Herrera — he is running without the support of two of his former allies.

Mayor Willie Brown, who ap-



Supervisor Mark Leno

pointed Leno as supervisor in 1998, is endorsing Steve Phillips and reportedly encouraged Holli Thier, an open lesbian, to enter the race. And state Assemblywoman Carole Migden, who is termed out of office, at first indicated her support for Leno to fill her seat, but last summer announced she had endorsed Britt.

"Her decision to support Harry was a personal one. I have only admiration for her great accomplishments in Sacramento," Leno said.

Education, housing, transportation, and energy are the key issues Leno said he wants to address if elected. He would like to implement Proposition B, the solar revenue bond proposition he authored and voters passed last year in San Francisco, on a statewide level.

"I've been pointing out during the campaign that the state's population is going to explode. It is going to go from 30 million to 50 million by 2020. That will seriously impact our infrastructures such as housing, transportation, education, health care, and energy," he said.

He also said he will not only advocate for full funding of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program but wants to see it increased by \$20 million in the 2002-2003 budget. In addition, he said he will fight for lower prices on prescription drugs for Medi-Cal recipients, fight healthcare cuts proposed by Governor Gray Davis,

and supports AB916, which would expand school-based HIV/AIDS prevention education to include information about sexually transmitted diseases.

"Governor Davis should hold HIV/AIDS programs harmless from any budget cuts," said Leno.

Last week he authorized and the board passed a resolution urging the state Legislature to support civil unions. In 2003 when Assemblyman Paul Koretz is expected to reintroduce his civil union bill, Leno said he would push for the bill by developing personal relationships with fellow lawmakers.

"As I have demonstrated here, I will work well with my fellow legislators in Sacramento to educate them and move them forward on our LGBT issues as they will educate me on issues of importance to them," he said.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Leno earned a bachelor of arts degree from American College of Jerusalem. He also spent two years in rabbinical studies at Hebrew Union in New York.

He moved to San Francisco in 1977 and has served on the boards of the LGBT Community Center Project, Haight Ashbury Community Services, the American Jewish Congress, Mobilization Against AIDS, and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

He has been endorsed by numerous community leaders, including former Planning Commissioner Dennis Antenore, Kate Kendell, executive director National Center for Lesbian Rights, and the Reverend Penny Nixon, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church in the Castro. ▼

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## Evertz

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man who has questioned the use of condoms as an HIV intervention tool — as co-chair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Louis Sullivan, who served as secretary of Health and Human Services under the first President Bush, will also serve as a co-chair. Sullivan is widely regarded as more moderate than the conservative Coburn.

AIDS activists have not only expressed concerns about Coburn but also the council's Executive Director Patricia Funderburk Ware, a longtime proponent of abstinence-based sex education. Ware will report to Evertz, who said the advisory council will not directly control the Bush administration's policies on HIV/AIDS. He will.

"The council is designed to make recommendations and not to make policy," he said. "The fact is there is one voice when it comes

to policy in the Bush administration."

As for his top priorities as director, Evertz told the councils he wants to engage other government agencies in the fight against AIDS and would like to see Medicaid reformed to better provide for people living with HIV/AIDS.

"We don't want to roll back the clock on HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention," Evertz said. "We want to do a better job than what has been done in the past."

Nearly 50 members from both councils met with Evertz. In their remarks, many stressed the importance of listening to the community planning groups when determining AIDS policies and funding amounts.

"Community, diversity, knowledge, and action are the keys to successful prevention," stated HPPC co-chair Edd Lee, associate director of prevention services at the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center.

The 26-year-old Lee shared


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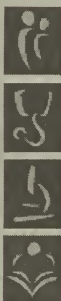
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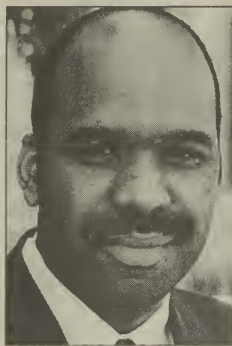


# Steve Phillips wants to bring groups together

by Katie Szymanski

Steve Phillips has seen a lot in his short lifetime of 37 years. Enough to know what discrimination is like: his family was the first black family in his neighborhood hometown of Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Enough to know how inspiring true leadership can be: his earliest memories include seeing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and bursting into tears when former Governor Jerry Brown did not get the presidential nomination. And enough to realize that his own calling is in the arena of public service. As he told the *Bay Area Reporter*, the period between his leaving the San Francisco school board (where he served from 1992-2001) and deciding to jump back into politics was brief.

"At the time that I resigned from the Board of Education, I did not plan to seek another term of office. I resigned in order to open a space for the appointment of an African American representative on the board because I was, and still am, very concerned about the level of African American representation in local politics," said Phillips, explaining his 2000 school board resignation, after which he was promptly re-appointed by Mayor Willie Brown. "When the person who was to be appointed withdrew for personal



Steve Phillips

reasons, I decided to finish out my term and the mayor agreed to re-appoint me to the seat that I had just vacated so that there would not be a void in leadership in the early months of the [Arlene] Ackerman superintendency.

"I am seeking public office again because I believe that serving at the statewide level is the best way for me to promote the issues that I care about, to serve the communities that most need representation in the political world, and to continue to help build the progressive movement in San Francisco," said Phillips, whose definition of progressive is "addressing the issues that touch the daily lives of individuals who are disempowered in this society."

His political philosophy includes approaching issues "from the standpoint of what will be most effective in meeting the needs of the people who will be affected by my decisions," he said. "Furthermore, I think that we need to democratize the decision-making and power-wielding positions in society so that they reflect the composition of the community."

Phillips moved to the Bay Area in 1982 to attend Stanford University, where he was active in the Black Student Union, the African/Black Student Statewide Alliance, the Young Democrats, the movement to get colleges to divest from businesses involved in South Africa, the movement to bring about a more multi-cultural curriculum, and both of Jesse Jackson's presidential campaigns.

After college, he moved to San Francisco and worked for four years as an education policy analyst at Public Advocates. At age 28, he became the youngest person to be elected to the San Francisco Board of Education and went on to serve as board president.

In 1997, he graduated from Hastings College of Law and started his own law practice focusing on civil rights law representing victims of racism, sexism, and homophobia. He is the co-founder of Justice Matters Institute, a multi-racial social justice organization which trains college students to become effective advocates for change, and GovFusion, a technology company that provides public and nonprofit agencies with software tools and public policy expertise. He also sits on a number of community and legal organizations.

"I have devoted my life to trying to build a progressive political movement that can have influence in the state of California," said Phillips of his decision to enter the race. "I had always thought that this would take years to come to fruition, but a combination of factors have come together — term limits, the new leadership in Sacramento, the wide-open nature of this race, to name a few — which convinced me that running for Assembly would be an opportunity to accelerate the influence of the progressive network of individuals that I have had the opportunity to work with in San Francisco."

His platform focuses on education, affordable housing, and economic development. He supports legalized gay marriage, although he recognizes that a civil unions bill may be more realistic in the current climate. He also has "great admiration" for Assemblywoman Carole Migden's accomplishments in securing AIDS funding, and says he plans to build on those achievements by tapping into his own relationships at the state level.

"I have been endorsed by the California Legislative Black Caucus and anticipate having a good relationship with the newly elected speaker, Herb Wesson," said Phillips. "In addition, this seat has traditionally been a very influential one in Sacramento because of the importance of San Francisco to Democrats statewide. I would use all of the influence and brain power that I have, and work with the communities who are most concerned about HIV/AIDS issues, to protect the drug assistance gains that Carole has made in Sacramento."

Phillips counts among his individual endorsers state treasurer Phil Angelides, Mayor Brown, Assessor Doris Ward, Roberta Achtenberg, Annie Chung, Renee Saucedo, and Norman Yee. ▼

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## Evertz

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with Evertz that despite his being a homeless runaway and having no college education, he has been able to make an impact due to the community planning process.

"[It] gives people like myself an opportunity to share in caring for other people like myself. It gives people of all walks of life a voice," he said.

After visiting with the Stop AIDS Project, which has come under federal scrutiny for its sexually provocative "Booty Call" and "Great Sex" workshops, Evertz said he is committed to allowing local communities control

how they present prevention messages.

"I have great respect for local control. I do recognize that organizations like Stop AIDS probably do know a lot more than probably I do about promoting HIV prevention here," he said. "They've got data that suggests their programs are working."

To effectively counter those in Washington D.C. who argue HIV prevention is not working, Evertz said he needs the support from local groups and activists.

"I come to San Francisco to ask for your help. I am not here to offer my help or the government's help," he said. "The debates in D.C. need your real life experiences and stories." ▼



# Visionary Britt ready to blaze more trails

by Katie Szymanski

If you're one of the thousands of San Francisco residents who has benefited from a rent controlled apartment, domestic partnership benefits, HIV/AIDS funding, or comparable worth for women, you can thank Harry Britt for fighting the battles back when it was safer to compromise and not rock the boat.

The civil rights trailblazer, college professor, and candidate for the Assembly seat soon to be left vacant by Assemblywoman Carole Migden is proud of his record, from the early days when he was appointed to slain Supervisor Harvey Milk's position, to his most recent accomplishments of volunteering to teach English as a second language in the city's Mission District.

The Democratic primary for the 13th District Assembly race is March 5. Britt is running against Supervisor Mark Leno, former school board member Steve Phillips, and former League of Women Voters President Holli Thier.

It is the future that most excites Britt, whose decision to enter the race was an answer to a calling by a vast cross-section of people unhappy with their choices for representation at the state level. Times have changed, said Britt, and the state battles are no longer about Democrats against Republicans, but about who has built the relationships necessary to stand up for a progressive agenda. A number of statewide public interest groups – including the California Nurses Association, the San Francisco Labor Council, the Sierra Club, and the California Teachers Association – say it will be Britt who will push the envelope, taking on the HMOs and their unfair HIV/AIDS coverage caps, fighting corporate corruption and pollution, and ensuring equal access to education for all.

"These are groups that normally stay out of primary races because they assume that whoever fills the Democratic seat from this district will be good," said Britt. "But they've made my campaign a priority, because they want leadership."

Britt makes no apologies for the fact that he doesn't plan to back down on key issues important to the LGBT community, women, workers, and minorities.

"Be proud of who your enemies are," he said, listing a few for the record. "Big corporations like Bechtel, which strongly opposed the anti-apartheid measure I sponsored. Landlords and developers. Many of these guys have contributed to Mark Leno's campaign."

It is not the only dig he allows at his leading opponent in the race, whose own offensives against Britt have received so much press recently that Britt can only chuckle at their "absurdity."

Don't get him wrong. Britt wants to address the attacks launched against him, but some of them – such as questions about his attendance record during his last year on the Board of Supervisors when his mother was dying; whispers about his absence at non-controversial votes like a resolution against the AIDS quarantine measure Proposition 64 during a time when he was traveling



Former Supervisor Harry Britt

as the No on 64 statewide co-chair; allegations that he has more corporate donations over his 14-year political history than Leno has in his four years of service; and the claim that he voted for Governor Pete Wilson – don't always warrant the dignity of his response.

Britt would rather stick to the issues and his record. This is a man who marched and worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Cesar Chavez, and Milk. He has witnessed and participated in enough movements to know that the most historical platforms have combined tangible goals and ideology, and on that note one of his priorities at the state level is to launch "a cultural war against fundamentalism." As a Methodist preacher in his early adult years, Britt learned the positives and negatives of religion, and comes armed with the ability to quote scripture for progressive purposes.

"Americans have seen what Islamic fundamentalism can do, but we also need an offensive against Christian fundamentalism," said Britt. "The wrongness of it all, particularly what it does to little girls in teaching them to hate their bodies and define their existence in terms of men. These are the veils that our women wear, and they are just as oppressive."

On HIV/AIDS, Britt will fight for the standard agenda, like increased AIDS Drug Assistance Program funding, but he has also been working on "a living document," whereupon community activists contribute their ideas to an ever-changing Web page that will help to form public policy strategy. With traditional prevention methods a recognized failure by many, Britt says he will also provide leadership to create a centralized research system at university campuses that ensure efficiency and fewer duplicated studies. He is particularly interested in the development of microbicides, a lubricant-based method of HIV prevention whose research has been ignored and not funded by most pharmaceuticals. And he will stand up for all relationships, including those that involve promiscuity, as "there's no need to become sexual conservatives" in order to fight the epidemic.

Britt's ideas and record, said community AIDS activist Jeff Sheehy, are precisely what the LGBT community needs.

"Harry sees the future as one where we have to fight for our rights as fully realized human beings," said Sheehy. "Mark seems to think if we're nice, they'll give us our rights, that if we negotiate and

settle for less, maybe we'll eventually get more. History is on Harry's side."

Britt's individual endorsers include Migden, Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly, Aaron Peskin, Gerardo Sandoval, Jake McGoldrick, former board President Angela Alioto, and Board of Education members Eric Mar, Jill Wynns, and Mark Sanchez. In addition to statewide union support, he has also received the nod of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, the San Francisco Labor Council, the Chinese American Democratic Club, the Bernal Heights Democratic Club, and the San Francisco Tenants Union.

He's come a long way since his upbringing in Texas, college days at Duke University, and pastoral duties in Chicago which led him to the civil rights marches of Alabama and eventually the gay rights marches in San Francisco. A 30-year resident of the city, Britt has never rested from public service whether in or out of office. After almost a decade of tapping into young energy, he says it is time to get back into the political arena.

"When important leaders of our community approached me to run, saying there was no candidate they trusted to carry on the Harvey Milk tradition of progressive, assertive politics, I was very excited by the challenge," said Britt. "There is a lot at stake in the George Bush era, and I feel exceptionally well prepared by my life experiences to challenge all that he stands for." ▼

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## Coburn

◀ page 1

les government affairs director, added that in addition to two leadership positions being filled by conservatives, there is limited representation of people and communities disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS.

"Former Congressman Coburn demonstrated great leadership during the 2000 reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. However, his positions on a range of issues important to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS including his past support for mandatory testing of pregnant women, his demonstrated homophobia and his abstinence-only sex education are great cause for concern," said Montoya. "As a Latino living with HIV, I am disappointed by the limited number of HIV-positive appointees and inadequate represen-

tation of communities disproportionately impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic," said Montoya.

Bush appointed 26 new members to his 35-member Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Among the new appointees to the Council are Abner Mason, former Log Cabin national president and current chief secretary to Massachusetts Acting Governor Jane Swift; Mary Fisher, an HIV-positive Republican activist who addressed the Republican National Convention in 1992 and 1996; Charles Francis, founder of the Republican Unity Coalition and gay Republican activist; James Driscoll, longtime AIDS activist and former LCR national AIDS policy advisor; and Joel Hastings, director of governmental affairs for Lifelong AIDS Alliance in Seattle, Washington.

"While many activists claimed throughout the 2000 campaign

that a Republican president would abolish the AIDS council, President Bush continues to deliver on his pledge to make the fight against HIV/AIDS at home and throughout the world a major priority of his administration," said Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "After appointing the first openly gay White House AIDS 'czar' in history, and launching the first formal interagency task force on the global AIDS crisis, the president has brought a wide diversity to the advisory council, with openly gay members, people of color and women, all from throughout the nation."

The leader of a national gay Democratic lobbying group criticized Tafel for accepting the appointments as a positive development.

"These poor choices, coupled with the fact that [the council] has remained inactive for over a year, demonstrate that HIV/AIDS policy is nowhere near a priority for the Bush administration," said

Chad Johnson, National Stonewall Democrats executive director. "Anyone who praises these appointments as purely positive developments for the gay and HIV/AIDS communities misleads the public."

For O'Leary, the appointment of Coburn is "an auspicious beginning to a reconfigured council that is also short on expertise." She said that her concern with Coburn and the tilt toward abstinence-only programs in the makeup of the council is that it has always been a mistake to think any single approach is going to work.

"We witnessed Representative Coburn's disastrous comments about condoms and his misreading of a CDC report on their effectiveness," O'Leary said. "And now, suddenly, he heads a very important group given the responsibility to guide the federal government on AIDS policy. His single-minded approach to abstinence-only programs is unenlightened and very dangerous."

Despite assurances from Scott

Evertz, the president's openly gay AIDS adviser, that the Bush administration will not roll back the clock on AIDS, those working in HIV prevention are worried time is already being reversed.

"When I hear Pat [Ware] is hired and Tom [Coburn] is appointed, I feel like they are already rolling back the clock," said Steve Gibson, Stop AIDS Project's program director. "It will have a chilling effect on programs when Coburn says condoms don't work and prevention has failed."

The new appointments mean AIDS agencies must be ever more vigilant of what is happening in Washington, D.C. said Steve Tierney, director of HIV prevention in San Francisco's Department of Public Health.

"Coburn represents a constituency that is important to the administration. He was going to end up someplace," said Tierney. "AIDS agencies need to turn up the volume on their work and make sure his is not the only voice being heard by the president." ▼

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## Jailed activists

◀ page 1

tapes was actually that of his client.

Previous reports about the case have implied that Petrelis and Pasquarelli uncovered unlisted numbers and the names of recipients' family members. Under cross-examination, it was revealed that Russell's phone number and address were in fact listed in the current white pages (much to his surprise) and that the names of his wife and children were on his outgoing answering machine message.

Last Thursday's hearing was devoted to testimony from Police Inspector Lea Militello, the lead police investigator in the case. In the course of her investigation, Militello interviewed several people who received harassing calls. She said that Dr. Willi McFarland's wife was "anxious" and "afraid for her children" after receiving the calls. Tammy Klausner (wife of Dr. Jeffrey Klausner), who was asked whether her husband "fuck[ed]" her with his syphilitic dick, said she was afraid for her family. Ashley Wolff (Russell's wife) also told Militello she feared

for her children. McFarland, Klausner, and Eileen Shields, all of DPH, testified in December before the recess.

Hector played several more tapes, including one to Mike Shriver, the mayor's AIDS adviser. "You and your little dog better wake up ... if you want to continue to walk the streets," said the caller, identified as Pasquarelli. Militello testified that Shriver feared for himself and his dog, was afraid to stay in his apartment, and boarded his dog elsewhere.

Militello also described interviews with *Chronicle* health and science editor David Pearlman and two other reporters, and tapes of their calls were played in the courtroom. Pearlman, who is in his 80s, received a call from a person he identified as Pasquarelli calling him a "senile syphilitic Nazi propagandist." Pearlman said he regarded the call as threatening and called the police.

Petrelis and Pasquarelli's attorneys objected several times that Militello's testimony amounted to hearsay, but they were consistently overruled by Meeks.

Militello identified the voices on all the tapes as belonging to either Petrelis or Pasquarelli, including the tapes of the recorded

statement that sounded somewhat different. She said she recognized their voices from various community events at which the men had spoken. In response to a question from Blumstein, Militello acknowledged that she had never studied voice recognition in her police training.

In a series of press releases and ads in local papers, Petrelis and Pasquarelli acknowledge taking part in what they call a "phone/fax/e-mail zap," but "categorically deny accusations that we issued threats or engaged in terrorist activities." They say they did not harass anyone's children, visit call recipients at their homes, or place a bomb threat to the *Chronicle* offices.

The hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, but was canceled due to the lack of an available courtroom; court was scheduled to resume on Wednesday as the B.A.R. went to press. After the current joint hearing, a second preliminary hearing will deal with additional charges filed against Pasquarelli. At the conclusion of both preliminary hearings, Meeks will decide whether to keep, throw out, or consolidate the charges, and whether the case will go to a jury trial. ▼

## Chuck Holmes

◀ page 1

was with a manufacturer of prefabricated buildings, and in 1971 the company promoted him to Western sales manager for residential housing and transferred him to San Francisco. When his division was eliminated in early 1971, Holmes bought three adult gay films and several mailing lists at the urging of an adult film entrepreneur, and by mid-year had

sent out his first mail order piece. It would be the birth of Falcon Studios.

Holmes was a major contributor not only to over 20 HIV/AIDS outreach programs, but also to such projects as the National AIDS Memorial Grove, Amnesty International, Global Green, and the Sierra Club. He was one of the first people to support and donate to the center.

"As a kid who grew up in Southern Indiana, he had the same kinds of fears other people who are gay grow up with. He always remembered that. It was a reason why he gave to things that would improve the lives of gays and lesbians," said Bean, a founder of both HRC and the Victory Fund, who knew Holmes for 12 years.

To date, the center's capital campaign has raised \$14.6 million of the \$15.3 million cost of the project. More than 3,000 individuals, foundations, and corporations have contributed to the building.

"I am hopeful that the community will see the significance of this gift and how it will be a benefit to all of us in helping to finish the capital campaign and ensure we will be able to return the debt for the center sooner than we

would have," said Martel.

Inside the 41,000 square foot center, the two large assembly spaces, 14 meeting rooms and other amenities will be named after LGBT leaders. Donors who give at least \$2,500 can choose to name a room.

"What we did was we encouraged donors to help us celebrate the history and diversity of the community by designating certain areas to be named after characters from our history. People who have made an impact on the LGBT community," explained Oren Slobberg, interim executive director of the center.

Those being honored include Audre Lorde, a black lesbian poet; gay Chicano activist Hank Tavera; Pedro Zamora, a cast member of MTV's *The Real World: San Francisco* who died of AIDS; gay disco diva Sylvester; black civil rights leader Bayard Rustin; and Marlon Riggs, the gay black filmmaker of *Tongues Untied*.

Also being remembered are the Society for Individual Rights, the Daughters of Bilitis, and two of the city's former gay nightspots: the Black Cat and Valencia Rose.

For more information on the center, visit its Web site at [www.sf-center.org](http://www.sf-center.org). ▼



## OBITUARIES

**Gene Blackburn**  
February 26, 1930 —  
January 20, 2002

Elton Eugene Blackburn died January 20 after a short illness. He was 71.

Gene, who was born February 26, 1930, in Birmingham, Alabama, attended the University of Alabama. He

moved to San Francisco following his release from the Army where he served in Vietnam.

He worked in property management before joining the Army again, but in a civilian capacity, serving as housing director in the Presidio. He retired in 1993, shortly before the base closed.

Gene was active for a time with the court system. "He was a kind, benevolent man," said Pushy Phyllis, who along with other former employees Tessie and Ginger received Gene's financial support in their quests for the title.

He was especially supportive of Tenterloin Tessie and the holiday dinner program for the needy started by Tessie that continues to this day.

He will be missed by his many friends.

Gene is survived by several nieces, long-time companion Karl Arnold and his beloved cat, Mr. Lee.

A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, February 9, starting at 3 p.m., at Mr. Lee's bar, 301 Turk Street.

**Samuel R. Meaker**  
September 23, 1925 —  
January 14, 2002

Samuel R. Meaker died on Monday, January 14, 2002, at the age of 76, after many years of emphysema and military service related illness. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History

and Master of Arts degree in Geography in 1950 and 1951, respectively, at Boston University. He made his home in San Francisco, and was a travel agent and half owner of Mark Tours and Travel, Inc., in San Francisco from 1978 to 1989. Following his retirement, he became active in working and volunteering for gay service organizations, including Opera-

tion Concern, Shanti, and American Association of Physicians for Human Rights (AAPHR). Kind, intelligent and elegant in his manner, Sam lived an interesting life, and was a faithful friend to the people and animals in his life.

**OBITUARY POLICY**

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

**Whipple trial**

◀ page 4

noted that although the prosecution would want to weed out those who are perceived as anti-gay, the defense may want to keep out those perceived to be too pro-gay. Graeven said that, for example, defense attorneys would try to keep off potential jurors who answered "yes" to a question asking whether they believe that gay or lesbian people were not given a fair shake in trials.

Kate Kendell, the director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and one of Smith's lawyers in the civil wrongful death suit, said that she believes it would be more important for prosecutors to know whether a juror was anti-gay than it would be for the defense to know whether someone was very pro-gay.

"Clearly, one could believe that lesbians and gay men suffer incredible discrimination, should have the right to marry, and believe that the fact that they don't have equal rights is reprehensible and still conclude that the defendants' conduct was not criminal," said Kendell. "Whether someone who is sympathetic to gay rights, I don't see directly correlates to their attitudes toward defendants' guilt as I would see hostility toward lesbians and gay men in some way coloring a juror's attitude around the senselessness of Diane's death. If a juror's attitude is 'the fewer gay people, the better,' well, obviously, that's not a juror you want to sit in judgment of these criminal defendants."

The questionnaire was distributed to a pool of about 800 potential jurors, of which more than 230 were excused for hardship. Prosecution and defense attorneys are expected to begin to orally question those remaining next week.

Graeven believes that by then, it will be too late to ask jurors about their attitudes toward gays.

"Our research shows that people are more candid in questionnaires than they are in oral [questioning]," said Graeven. "They are more likely to explain or say how they feel. In open court, fear of public speaking is a big thing. People will tend to minimize what they say, not talk too much or be very forthcoming and that's very tough for truth. The questionnaire is the right way to do it because it offers a person some privacy."

Kendell said that although she respects the opinions of jury experts, she believes that a good attorney can get truthful responses to sensitive issues like sexual ori-

entation through oral questioning.

"It is a question I might want to see in the questionnaire," said Kendell, "but it may be that rather than having it on the questionnaire, that both the prosecution and defense attorneys want to ask the questions live and judge a juror's responses to their words rather than having the question simply answered in black and white."

Graeven also believes that the questionnaire should have included more than just two questions about white supremacist gangs. Knoller and Noel, the caretakers of the dogs involved in the attack on Whipple, adopted Pelican Bay state prison inmate, Paul Schneider, a man prison officials say is a member of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang.

"You want to know how they feel about [the Aryan Brotherhood]. It's another in what I consider to be a very serious oversight," said Graeven, who noted the correlation that people who would support a white supremacist organization probably wouldn't support gay rights.

Reached for comment late Tuesday night, January 29, lead prosecutor Jim Hammer told the B.A.R. that he believes the defense tried to introduce a gay-related question but the judge decided to keep it off the questionnaire.

"I think it's more a defense issue than our issue," said Hammer. "I think you can pick people out who are prejudiced and close-minded when you ask these many questions. And I don't want to make this a gay case. It's about a woman who was living with her partner, her lover, and was killed because of these people."

"And Sharon Smith is going to be introduced [on the witness stand] and I am going to say 'Who is Diane Whipple?' and she is going to say 'She's my life partner.'"

Hammer added that he was very pleased with the ruling issued earlier that day allowing Smith to testify about Whipple being bitten on the hand by one of the couple's dogs a little over a month before the deadly attack.

Defense attorneys Nedra Ruiz and Bruce Hotchkiss did not return the B.A.R.'s calls.

Opening statements are scheduled for February 19. Potential jurors were told by Judge Warren that the trial could last for up to six weeks.

**Letter released**

Knoller, 46, who was with her two dogs during the January 26, 2001, hallway attack on Whipple, her neighbor, faces second-degree

murder as her most serious charge. Noel, 60, is being charged with involuntary manslaughter. Jurors will have the option of finding Knoller not guilty of second-degree murder but guilty of involuntary manslaughter. Both Noel and Knoller are also being charged with keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. The trial was moved to Los Angeles at the request of the defense out of concern for the extensive negative publicity the couple received in the Bay Area.

Warren recently released the seven-page typewritten letter written by Noel to Schneider just two weeks before the attack. Previously, only excerpts of the letter in which Noel refers to Whipple as a "timorous mousy blond" were released.

The letter details Noel's view of the relationship between him, Knoller, and Schneider.

"I wanted to thank you for the thoughts expressed about your feelings about how comfortable you would feel about Marjorie and I inhabiting your body and mind," wrote Noel. "The feelings are mutual and I am sure you know what it means to hear those words from you. I agree - inhabiting Marjorie's body - I wouldn't be able to keep my hands off either!"

Schneider and his cellmate, Dale Bretches, allegedly ran a dog breeding business from prison. They claim to be the joint owners of Bane and Hera, the dogs involved in the deadly mauling. Schneider and Bretches have been named as witnesses, but in a letter to Warren, Schneider vowed not to answer any questions citing his right against self-incrimination. He also promised to disrupt the trial.

Noel made reference in his letter to some pictures of Knoller that were sent to Schneider:

"Really, really glad you liked the photos in the letter of 1/1. There were similar ones that I am sure you have gotten from Marjorie of New Year's Eve. On the issue of full frontal - Marjorie says maybe at some point. That is something she reserves for her two husbands alone."

In referencing the couple's adoption of Schneider, Noel wrote:

"It is the one form of legal action which can join the 3 of us in a binding family unit - If it were permitted to be accomplished through a second marriage that would have been the medium - but we have become a family and Marjorie and I are prepared to go as far as possible to formalize that arrangement." ▼

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# More popular than Jesus

by Jim Provenzano

**O**n any weekend during the season, 110 million Americans go to church; 125 million watch the NFL.

So, if you're an atheist this Sunday, you're out of the loop.

Starting with the stereotypical presumption that most gay readers aren't into football, except this one holy day of the year, a primer is offered:

Focus on the quarterbacks. They're smart and usually the cutest.

Here's some facts on the hunky Ram Kurt Warner:

- Not gay
- Warner's pass rating over the past three seasons is 103.4.

• He's only the third player to achieve a three-year rating in triple figures. (Joe Montana had a 100.7 rating from 1987 to 1989; Steve Young's best was 107.1, from 1992 to 1994.)

• Born-again Christian who credited God for last Super Bowl victory.

• Wife has a women's golfer haircut

• Still not gay

• Drew Bledsoe's the quarterback for the Patriots. He's cute, too.

• Not gay, but the 12-inch action figure is.

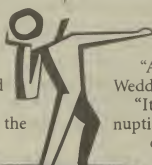
But with quarterbacks like fanatically born-again Kurt Warner at the helm, and other players vehemently denying gay rumors, it seems a strange reversal has taken place. The Lions are the Christians and the once-pagan rulers

are now the chum.

God may be on someone's side, but with Capricorn being the high sign right now, I'd go for the Rams over the Patriots. So, if Jesus ever comes back, he'd better be wearing a helmet.

## Valley of the Giants

Of course, even holy matrimony can't block out the queer twist.



**Sports Complex**

From *New York* magazine's Intelligence:

"A Giant Gay Football Wedding:

"It appears the recent nuptials of cute former *Law & Order* star Angie Harmon and cute Giants defensive back Jason Sehorn were infiltrated by the other team — and

we're not talking sports. Many spectators at the Dallas ceremony, we hear, were squinting their eyes and scratching their heads as the procession began and three of the bridesmaids turned out to be ... lads!

"This, of course, led to one heck of a man-on-man spectacle. As amused guests Bridget Hall, Jim Fassel, Jesse Martin, Jaime Rishar, S. Epatha Merkerson, and numerous teammates looked on, the three, er, bridesmen escorted the tuxedoed groomsmen — which included several former Giants — down the aisle wearing smart black suits. But it was at the reception that the sacred rite really became a virtual love fest of alternative lifestyles.

"One bridesman got down with his boyfriend as the pair dirty-danced with Harmon to 'Holiday,' in a scene straight out of Truth or Dare, while other members of the wedding party — including married men — joined in on the dance floor during, appropriately enough, Diana Ross's 'I'm Coming Out.' However, Sehorn himself seems to have kept his distance. 'He was laughing, but he wasn't getting down like the rest of them,' reports one attendee."

## Nibbly things, sweetie

Frank DeCaro of Little Falls, New Jersey (one of my favorite towns) is also the ebullient bald commentator in *Newsday* and on cable. He made popular the joke that the Oscars are the gay Super Bowl.

But is the Super Bowl gay?



Father, son, and holy hunk: Kurt Warner's sacred squats, man in fishnet, a fisher of men.



With all that pro-America screed, isn't it also pro-gay, being primarily performed by men in tights and shoulder pads? (See previous annual columns, "Why I hate pro football, parts I-IV.")

Not that gay people, of course, aren't into it — the Super Bowl, that is. I know you are, and I might have even watched it this year, if it hadn't been for that snowy ref call a while back that completely altered the course of football history. A fix in the NFL? To ensure that the victors reinforce our PATRIOTIC theme? No way.

The biggest element of gay football parties will be the snacks! Once a year, prissy sissies like yours truly get to openly admire the arrangement of tasteful garish and players' butts, instead of quietly staring in awe through childhood.

Since most of your wide-screen guests will be in marketing, PR, set design, or on unemployment, the gay Super Bowl party, of course, leads to the real contest; who got the best \$1 million-a-minute ads!

- Categories include:
- Best drag by a pro product promoter jock
  - Best cool mysterious Matrix-esque FX
  - Worst use of a has-been celebrity
  - Most perversely erotic beer commercial
  - Corniest use of animated animals

## Pageantry gentry

Here's a kind of PC yet cross analysis of the halftime entertainment from last year, which isn't much different than this year. Sure, U2's cool and all, but the basic tone of the flag-waving fireworks sing-a-long is the same. I plan to leave the room during any treacherous "remember the victims of September 11" anthem.

Web scribbler Adrian Colesberry sums up the post-modern subverted homoeroticism in blunter terms:

"I know there is a fine line between extreme machismo and homoeroticism. But listening to the castrati-like voices of the Backstreet Boys chirp out the National Anthem while the camera cut among the bellicose faces of the military honorees, the thyroid cases on the sideline getting psyched to kick the crap out of each other, and the phallic, penetrative jet planes flying overhead was so homoerotic that it should be made into a gay porn film called Backstreet Boys in Bondage.

"I'm not saying that the Backstreet Boys are gay. (They each had more women last weekend than I will have in my entire life). I'm not saying that it's wrong to be gay. (I like women who suck cock, so what would I have

against the gay man? The more cocksucking that goes on the better!) I'm just saying the centerpiece of machismo in American culture should attempt not to be a gay jerk-off fantasy. (I have nothing against gay jerk-off fantasies. If everybody would just masturbate more, the world would be a much happier place.)

For those who combine both said activities, here are some visual aids:  
<http://www.fballmeat.com/update.html>

## Naked and the deadpan

While the NFL may not think of itself as gay, Hollywood sure does.

Leigh McCloskey as Alexander became the temporary boy-toy of Alan Feinstein as the gay football player in the classic TV movie *Alexander: Portrait of Dawn*. Rent it today, perhaps even *Cruel Intentions* (gay teen football player — Eric Mabius — and a blackmail drug addict subplot; how inventive!) or *Scary Movie*, with Shawn Wayans as the ambiguously gay football player.

TV shows seem to make a gay Super Bowl connection as well.

Jack (Kerr Smith) of *Dawson's Creek* has a gay football player thing. You can read my interview of him somewhere in the vast HTML recesses of [planetgayconglom.com](http://planetgayconglom.com).

*Buffy the Vampire Slayer* featured a gay football player, but he turned into a werewolf didn't he? Or was he eaten by a giant demon-snake in last year's season finale? I don't know. Don't watch WB.

*Boston Public* continues the "gay subplot covers all target markets" theme. Harvey Lipshultz (Fyvush Finkel) is the high school history teacher. If you missed the episode where he outs a high school student, look for the rerun. In naive pro-queer earnest cluelessness, he tells the football team that they should open their showers up to the gay football player.

On the January 23 episode of NBC's sitcom *The Naked Truth*, two straight men posed as gay and engaged in lip-locking. Two regular characters, Nick (Jonathan Penner) and Dave (Mark Roberts), are "outed" as gay to their boss, Les (George Wendt) by a co-worker. Les tells the two that he wants them to sit with his father at the Super Bowl to educate him about gay men. To get the tickets, Nick and Dave play along, acting affectionate, but a co-worker almost blows their cover. Les says they have to prove they are gay by kissing. They do after a little protesting, and to Nick's surprise, Dave won't let go. When Nick reacts to Dave's passions, Dave responds, "You loved it and you know it."

Don't you love having your entire subculture reduced to network fodder used to sell pancakes to middle America?

## Bridge of size

But wait, there's more! Here's an episode synopsis of now-defunct San Francisco-based *Nash Bridges*. I seemed to ride by their film sets more often than I watched the show, but here's an episode worth watching in syndication:

"Joe pulls Nash into another of Joe's off-duty freelance jobs. Joe and Nash must pretend to be a gay couple to get the job of locating gay football player Jack Conrad's Super Bowl Championship ring. Jack's former lover Tim has taken the ring and Jack is willing to pay \$10,000 to get the ring back. A wedding invitation leads Nash and Joe to the wedding where Tim has been invited. While buying a wedding gift, Joe and Nash run into Pepe (the gay bartender who used to work for Joe) and Whitney. Pepe gives Whitney the mistaken impression that Joe and Nash are gay. Also, the initially reluctant Nash now suddenly wants this case because father Nick needs \$5,000 to support a race horse."

Hmm, now which players were the ones that gave their rings to each other? Oh, that was baseball. Guess football isn't gay enough.

## Cho 'nuff

Margaret Cho thinks differently.

Remember her TV remote party?

Here's a bit from her Web site recalling that broadcast moment: Q: "I thought it was pretty amazing that you did your remote segment on *Politically Incorrect* from a gay bar on Super Bowl Sunday."

Margaret Cho: "Bill Maher's such a homophobe but I really love him for letting me do that. I mean, that's so subversive, to just be able to do live television from a gay bar on Super Bowl Sunday. And lesbians watch football; they're really into it. So, it's not just the domain of straight men, it's for everybody. And that's my bread and butter, the gay audience. It's very familiar and very loving to me."

That's because you're fabulous, Mags.

"This Super Bowl was gay" — Bill Maher, January 31, 2000

And, Bill, thank God you're not.

## Drew that way

And what would a Super Bowl pre-game analysis be without Mr. Hand? He always has something witty to say, and if you recall the *South Park* episode with Drew

next page ►



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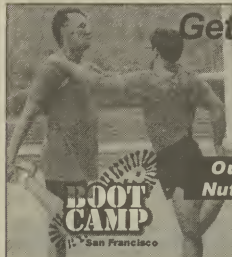


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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Sports Complex

◀ previous page

Bledsoe nude in the steam room, you'll LOL. I'm not, since the page I found the quote on is all soundwave files, and it's still downloading. And no, Drew is still not gay.

British Sports Minister Tony Banks issued a call last May for gay football players to come out of the closet. Of course, he was talking about what we call soccer, and even if they did all come out, there'd still be an ocean between us and them, culturally speaking.

## Fem foot fan

Of course, the biggest gay football story this and last year isn't gay, it's lesbian. The rise and fall and rise and ... who knows? of women's professional football has been covered here and elsewhere.

But coverage of it amounts to six blind men describing an elephant. I admit to being one of those blind men, for only interviewing members of the Oakland Banshees, who recently played in Hawaii. Thanks for the postcard, Ondine!

SF Weekly ran a four-page cover story, with great photos, of the San Francisco Tsunami.

It's easy for a writer to take potshots at a troubled effort, like shooting a wounded deer. Lisa Davis's story earnestly follows the problems with the team that, strangely, named itself similarly to the Bay Area's popular GLBT swim team.

Yet Davis never once mentions the L-word. While *Sports Illustrated* for Women's feature with one lesbian coming out fanned the flaming fingers of sports writers nationwide (and mine featuring several got a big whoop), SF Weekly misses that call by a mile.

Can't wait to read their review of Rosie O'Donnell's book.

## Field days

Women interested in a lighter form of the sport can join the San Francisco Women's Flag Football League. This sport is available to women that may not fit the mold of a traditional athlete. The league is seeking dedicated team players with good sportsmanship for whom shoulder pads never go out of style.

The San Francisco Women's Flag Football League, for women 18 years and older, features a recreationally competitive league that provides opportunities to enhance your athletic skills, learn football strategy and techniques, and to get involved with your community. The league is run by volunteers who love the game of flag football and welcomes others to learn about it too.

Important SFWFFL dates to remember:

Football Boot Camp 101: Every Sunday until season starts.

February 10: Deadline to register a team.

March 10: Spring season begins.

March 10: Season kick-off BBQ at the Wild Side West, SF 3-8 p.m.

Missed the boot camp last week? Get your butt in gear and go to the next one! For more information, visit [www.sffwfl.com](http://www.sffwfl.com).

Get involved on an existing team or enroll your team in the spring 2002 league by contacting Judea Eden at (415) 401-0197 or e-mail at [judeae@microsoft.com](mailto:judeae@microsoft.com). Join the International Gay & Lesbian Football Association at [www.igfba.org/index1.htm](http://www.igfba.org/index1.htm). ▼

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The DPW believes that it is important to work in partnership with the community. We respond to phone calls and letters from the public, attend community meetings, support neighborhood cleanups and much more. If you belong to a neighborhood or merchant association, we strongly encourage you to invite us to one of your upcoming meetings. At your meeting, we can make a presentation on how we can better serve your special neighborhood concerns and distribute important information on how to reach us. If you are interested in a visit from us, please call Karin Flood Ekland at 641-2381. We look forward to hearing from you!

## VACANCY NOTICE

The Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force presently has four vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Rm. 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the city's web site: [www.ci.ca.us/dpsuprv/vacancies/trans](http://www.ci.ca.us/dpsuprv/vacancies/trans).

CITYWATCH: San Francisco Government Cable Channel 26 During the month of February, tune in to CityWatch, San Francisco Government Cable Channel 26 for exciting special programming. Freedom Rides Revisited, Mondays, February 3 & 17 (1 hour) The March on Washington Revisited, Mondays, February 10 & 24 (1 hour) View Live coverage of the Board of Supervisors' meetings, Commissions, Council meetings and special events on CITYWATCH, San Francisco Government Cable Channel 26. CITYWATCH may also be viewed online: [www.sfgov.org/citywatch/](http://www.sfgov.org/citywatch/) Check website for current program guide. Or turn to Cable Channel 26 and view on-air program schedules on the hour, and the half-hour. You may also call the CITYWATCH hotline at (415) 557-4293, to hear a recording of live cable cast and repeat playback times. Please send comments to [citywatch@ci.ca.us](mailto:citywatch@ci.ca.us).

INVITATION FOR QUOTES (IFQ) IFQ for emergency roofing service for developments of the San Francisco Housing Authority. Quotes are due February 14, 2002. For details of the IFQ, fax request to (415) 554-1258 with name, firm, mailing address, telephone number.

## VACANCY NOTICE

The Citizens Advisory Committee on Elections has two openings, seats 1 and 6. Applicants must be a registered San Francisco voter with an interest and knowledge in the elections process, and show a commitment to fair and impartial elections. Seat 1 must also be nominated by a citizens group interested in civic participation and/or fair elections. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Rm. 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the city's web site: [www.ci.ca.us/dpsuprv/vacancies/trans](http://www.ci.ca.us/dpsuprv/vacancies/trans).

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 253876

The following person(s) are doing business as: Earth Angel Escorts. 12 Raleigh, San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Victor Manuel Suarez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The business was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/2002. JAN 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 253873

The following person(s) are doing business as: Giegler's Auto Body Shop. 3252 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110-1917. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Richard A. Giegler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 02, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/2002. JAN 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540102

In the Matter of the Application of Paul James Ramey for change of Name. The application of Paul James Ramey, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Paul James Ramey has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ramzi James al-Hassan Ramey. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of March at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JAN. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540090

In the Matter of the Application of Robert Emmanuel Hernandez for change of Name. The application of Robert Emmanuel Hernandez, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Robert Emmanuel Hernandez has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Robert Emmanuel Jacob. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of February at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JAN. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254052

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pioneer Builders. 3759 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110-5844. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Martocchio Inc. DBA Pioneer Builders, Lido Martocchio-president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 1998. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/08/2002. JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254120

The following person(s) are doing business as: R.J. Williams Publishing. 923 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Rocky J. Williams. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 10, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/10/2002. JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 253935

The following person(s) are doing business as: Isle 8 Pictures. 2262 Mason Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Loni Weholt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 04, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/04/2002. JAN 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 253937

The following person(s) are doing business as: CMC Traffic Control Specialists. 375 Illinois Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Crystal J. Miks. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 04, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/14/2002. JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254172

The following person(s) are doing business as: You Can Earn @ Home. 639 Diamond Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114-3225. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Franklin A. Newhouse. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 10, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/11/2002. JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254175

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Design Partnership. 1412 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed John S. Boerger and John W. Kibbe. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 12, 1979. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/11/2002. JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 253580

The following person(s) are doing business as: Terrace Mitchell Thibideaux. 231 States Street #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Terrace Mitchell Thibideaux (California). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/14/2001. JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254342

The following person(s) are doing business as: Networld. 3221 20th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed NWC, LLC (Nevada Corp)-Gregory Allan Maupin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 03, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/16/02. JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254411

The following person(s) are doing business as: Skorio Enterprises. 435 Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Darnell Gary Smith. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/02. JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254422

The following person(s) are doing business as: Capacitas, Capacitas Consulting. 124 Lower Terrace, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Austin Flanagan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/02. JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254310

The following person(s) are doing business as: Network Professionals. 2215-R Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gerid Santner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/15/02. JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 253891

The following person(s) are doing business as: Axum Cafe. 1233 Polk Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tsegai Berhe. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 02, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/02. JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254292

The following person(s) are doing business as: West Wind Commercial. 646 Corbett Street #203, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Christopher DiTullo. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 15, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/15/02. JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 023292-00

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Madd Kru. Located at: 719 Jerrold Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: July 08, 1999. This business was conducted by: a individual: Darnell Smith- owner/ president. JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

## NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Embaye Michael. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 421 Beach Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. Type of license Applied for:

41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE  
DATE: JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540114

In the Matter of the Application of Ronald Carl Hensen, Sr. for change of Name. The application of Ronald Carl Hensen, Sr. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ronald Carl Hensen, Sr. has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Dixie Mae Hensen. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 14th day of March at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 540123

In the Matter of the Application of Cecilia Flores for change of Name. The application of Cecilia Flores for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Cecilia Flores has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Antonio John Flores. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 18th day of March at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254459

The following person(s) are doing business as: SpaceDeZine. 1571 Underwood Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Dale Edgar Zink. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 22, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/22/02. JAN 31, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254117

The following person(s) are doing business as: Blueblood Birds. 1032 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kathy M. Ritchie. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/10/02. JAN 31, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 253961

The following person(s) are doing business as: Courtney's Delicatessen. 712 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94108. This business is conducted by an individual signed Courtney Schroborsdorff. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/04/02. JAN 31, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254514

The following person(s) are doing business as: Night Honkey. 2223 Union Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Patricia Ann Miller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/24/02. JAN 31, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO. 254549

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tina's Laundramat. 636 Chenery Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Pat Sahagun. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 25, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/25/02. JAN 31, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002



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LEGAL  
NOTICESSTATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT  
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME. FILE NO: 213081

The following person (persons) have  
abandoned the use of the fictitious business  
name known as: Tina's Laundromat.  
Located at: 636 Chenery Street, San  
Francisco, Ca. 94131. The fictitious name  
referred to above was filed in the County of  
San Francisco on: 4/10/1997.  
This business was conducted by: a Husband  
and Wife: Nicholas C. Vratimos and  
Cathryn M. Vratimos.  
JAN. 31, FEB 7, 14, 21, 2002

STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN  
FRANCISCO FILE NO. CPF 02-  
540116

In the Matter of the Application of Ewa  
Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan,  
Julian Paul Chan for change of Name. The  
application of Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya  
Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan for change  
of name, having been filed in Court, and it  
appearing from said application that Ewa  
Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan,  
Julian Paul Chan has filed an application  
proposing that his/her name be changed to  
Ewa Joanna Litauer, Maya Kristina Litauer  
Chan, Julian Paul Litauer Chan. Now  
therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed,  
that all persons interested in said matter do  
appear before this Court in Department 218  
on the 19th day of March at 9:00am., of  
said day to show cause why the application  
for change of name should not be granted.  
JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

## JOBS OFFERED

LARKIN STREET Helping kids get  
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Founded in 1984, Larkin Street Youth Services (LSYS) is nationally  
recognized for its innovative and effective medical, psychosocial,  
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**Manager of Overage Youth Services:** This newly created position  
is designed to work closely with the Director of Overage Youth Services,  
providing leadership and day-to-day management of Lark Inn (40 bed  
emergency youth shelter), Case Management, and Avenues to  
Independence (transitional living program). Working to help guide the  
Overage portion of the agency's services. Responsibilities include daily  
operations: supervision of staff, volunteers and interns; development and  
implementation of program services; management of program budgets;  
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preferred; this person will serve on the agency's middle management team.  
Minimum four years staff supervision experience required. Excellent written  
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**LOFT Coordinator:** The LOFT (Larkin Opportunities For Transition) is  
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of underage homeless youth in San Francisco. The LOFT places a strong  
emphasis on career planning and assessment, and on the development  
of workforce readiness skills necessary for transition to economic self-  
sufficiency. MSW strongly preferred, MA in related field accepted. Minimum  
of three years working with adolescents required. Two years of supervisory  
experience preferred. Primary responsibilities: management of the day-to-  
day operations of the LOFT Program, which include supervision of staff,  
volunteers, interns; development and implementation of program services;  
grants management; and management of budgets and finances. Provide  
overall clinical supervision to the program team. Liaison to Medical Clinic,  
Homeless Youth Network Program, Department of Human Services  
Homeless Team. Salary range is \$41-43K, DOE.

**ATI Coordinator:** A key player in the Overage Youth portion of our  
continuum of services, specifically for the direction and growth of our  
Avenues to Independence Program (ATI), serving homeless and runaway  
youth ages 18-22. Responsibilities include: career and job readiness  
assessment, management for high functioning homeless and runaway  
youth, staff supervision (6-8 counselors), management of day-to-day  
operations of the program including grants management, management of  
budgets and finances. ATI is an innovative employment career development  
program, housed in a 14 bed transitional living facility. Energetic and  
creative thinker is a must! Three years of youth program management, and  
experience with homeless and runaway youth required. Masters in related  
field, preferably MSW. \$41-45K DOE.

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accrual in first year, twelve agency holidays annually.

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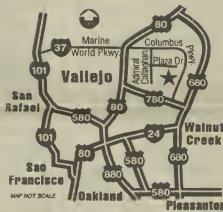
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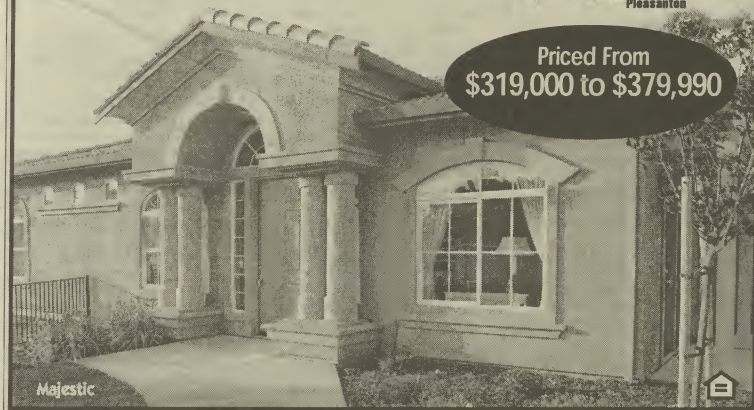
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Enron end run in 'Lavender Tube'  
Lies, suicide, and lost life savings:  
is this an Aaron Spelling miniseries?  
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Choreograph me, Kate  
Kathleen Marshall makes  
movement in 'Kiss Me, Kate.'  
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Pedal pushers  
More than one boy needs  
wheels in 'Beijing Bicycle.'  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 5 • 31 January 2002

## The spirit of independence

by Gary Morris

45-year-old Charlie Adler casts himself as a 14-year-old high school girl suspected by her friends of being a lesbian in *No Prom for Cindy*

The 4th Annual SF Independent Film Festival celebrates low-budget filmmaking



San Francisco can lay claim to several nicknames it might happily pass on to other cities: earthquake epicenter, dot-com graveyard, "meanest city in the country." In the boom/bust days of the late '90s, some observers worried that the widespread expulsion of rent-paying arts groups in favor of mysterious Internet startups with loads of stock and little else would extinguish some of the few bright lights in an otherwise often dim city. But the arts groups have been returning, lured by repentant landlords who realize a buck in the hand is worth a thousand phony stock options.

In the midst of the madness, one thing in the city remained robust: independent film production and exhibition. Increasingly cheap technologies and a mainstream cinema in virtual rigor mortis have made the lure of low-budget filmmaking irresistible.

The San Francisco Independent Film Festival, now in its fourth year, has become one of the premier showcases for this scene, with 99 videos and films from 12 countries spread over a week and a half, January 31-Feb. 10. While the quality of the en-

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## Skippping time zones

by David Lamble

Tsai Ming-Liang's personal cinema

In *What Time Is It There?*, opening Friday, a middle-aged widow (Lu Yi-Ching) comforts herself with the hope that the spirit of her dead husband has returned to her in the body of a large vegetarian fish, Fatty. For one very long take, we watch the actress playing the widow silently commune with the giant white fish, who in a previous scene has broken its own food vows and eaten a cockroach. The scene has a pathos, lightly mixed with humor, that is positively unique in modern film. Despite the glass of the fish bowl, you start to feel, after several moments of staring at this tableau, that fish and widow will somehow touch.

Meanwhile, the widow's son, Hsiao Kang

(Lee Kang-Sheng), is taking his dad's demise rather badly. A watch merchant, in a weak moment he sold a gift from his father, a special dual-time zone watch, to a young woman, Shiang-Chyi (Chen Shiang-Chyi), who is planning a trip to Paris. Hsiao Kang has somehow transferred his unresolved feelings for his father into a very special torch for Shiang-Chyi. For the balance of *What Time Is It There?*, Hsiao Kang runs amok, turning every clock he can get his hands on in Taipei ahead to Paris time. This madness culminates in the film's first specifically gay scene. Having stolen a large wall clock and hidden it under the seat of a movie house, Hsiao

page 28 ►



Lee Kang Sheng stars in Tsai Ming-Liang's *What Time Is It There?*

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS





"Little" Edie Bouvier Beale always had a fashion sense.

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## by Roberto Friedman and Cape Todd

Forgive us if we've been a bit distracted this week, but we've had construction workers toiling day upon day right outside our window and have been treated to the music of jackhammers and other purposeful activity. Plus, Miss Peggy Lee and Miss Edie Bouvier Beale both shuffled off this mortal coil the same week: just how much tragedy is a queen supposed to take?

Miss Peggy had her day in the sun — is that all there is? — but the human treasure who was Little Edie is perhaps known only to fans of the seminal David and Albert Maysles

1975 documentary *Grey Gardens*. That's where most of the world first met Little and Big Edie, drop-outs from High Society who lived their own demented existence in their own little world, along with buckets of cats, raccoons and possums, in a crumbling mansion. Cousin and aunt, respectively, of Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis, who went on to much bigger things, Little Edie and Big Edie were never very concerned with bourgeois niceties like litter boxes.

Who will ever forget the sight of Little Edie emptying a box of cat biscuits as treats for the raccoons in the attic? She had all of that Camelot charisma, only slightly — well, a lot! — kookier. But she did have a fashion sense and could do wonderful things with just a tube of fabric and a safety pin. Little Edie could have had a high-profile career as a fashion model or actress, but Big Edie called her home to Grey Gardens to look after her. In the film, Big Edie tells her, "You've had enough fun in your life!"

When the Maysles' movie was released, the resulting *scandale* forced Jackie O. to pay for a clean-up of the ramshackle 25-room pile the Bouvier Beales called their home. It took a lot of flea bombs.

Yes, they're hanging the crepe in East Hampton, and sitting

shiva in piano bars. Is that all there is indeed.

## Running to the dogs

In our continuing series of investigative reporting, *Men and Dogs: Is There any Difference?*, Out There got in touch with an expert in both species, a judge on the dog-show circuit named Mike Lynch who also happens to be an out and proud gay African-American man. OT asked Lynch how he judged what makes a dog best of breed, and if he applied these same standards to judging specimens of the man species.

"Well, each breed has individual characteristics that makes it unique," said Lynch. "Essentially the qualities are listed in a breed standard kept on file with the American Kennel Club. Since I must judge to the standard, I like to look for those qualities that make a poodle a poodle or a German shepherd a shepherd. I judge on type."



Mike Lynch (right) with waterdog

"When I judge men, I do have a standard that I look for — job, car, heart of gold — as opposed to tall, short-backed and carrying himself with an air of peculiar dignity." These last qualities are attributes of good breeding for dogs, we think.

"When I retired from professional dog-handling," said Lynch, "I made myself a promise to be an all-rounder and judge all 137 breeds. I now have the Entire Terrier Group, the Entire Non-Sporting Group, Dobermans, Portuguese waterdogs, giant schnauzers, standard schnauzers, Australian shepherds, German shepherds and St. Bernards."

How very *Best in Show*! As to the difference between human and canine? "I have received lots of pleasure from the 4-legged kind, nothing from the 2-legged kind." Ouch, what a bite!

Lynch next judges the Australian Shepherd Club of Two Cities Annual Spring Specialty ASCA Show in Morgan Hill, CA at Forrest Park on Feb. 9. Showtimes are from 2:30-7:30 p.m. with a barbecue for exhibitors immediately following.

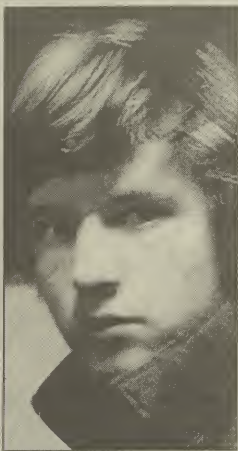
## Brat pack

Our pal Benny Bratt was not the first choice for the lead role in director Leon Ichaso's biopic of poet and playwright Miguel Piñero now playing in Bay Area theatres. According to the *LA Times*, performer John Leguizamo backed out when he heard that Piñero was not only bisexual, but at one point had been involved with older teenage boys.

"He was a huge inspiration to me," the star of *Sexaholix* told the *Times*, "but when I found out about [his sex life], his image was tarnished!"

We guess Leguizamo will plug only one kind of hole. But wait, isn't it the job of an actor to pretend? Oh well, what can you expect of yet another tired variation on machismo, an actor whose entire impersonation of artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec in *Moulin Rouge* was based on a lip.

BB found it surprising that JL refused the role, but said "his loss is my gain." This week *Sexaholix* closes at the Royale Theatre in NYC.



Author Keith Fleming

## A boy's own memoir

*The Boy with the Thorn in His Side*, author Keith Fleming's memoir of adolescent angst, chronicles his rescue from Midwestern hell, thanks to an offer by his Uncle Eddie White, panjandrum of all '70s gay NYC, to come live with him in Manhattan. We've already heard this story, in Uncle Ed's trilogy of autobiographical novels that began with *A Boy's Own Story* and ended with *The Farewell Symphony*, and no, the beautiful room was not empty.

But it's great fun to hear how things went according to the teenage Fleming, like the time he can't understand why a visit by his beautiful friend Donny is such music to the ears of White's chicken-hawk friend. And then there's the bundle of cruising energy which was the elder relation.

"The funny thing is that Uncle Ed was so blasé about all the sex he was having that in our daily talks in the kitchen he and I came up with something we called 'the icky system.' This was a system that rated the quality of Ed's sex with various people based on the idea that all sex is to some degree icky." Hmmm. Maybe White, co-author of *The Joy of Gay Sex*, left the icky parts to his collaborator Chuck Silverstein.

"Because the icky system awarded only negative scores, the highest rating that could be bestowed on his sex with someone was 'minus one icky' (the rating he gave Keith McDermott)," White's roommate and crush, who played 17-year-old Alan Strang in *Equus* on Broadway, "though more par for the course was, 'Oh, I think the guy last night must have been minus four or maybe even minus five icksies.'"

Fleming went on to edit the *Chicago Literary Review*.

There are those construction workers pounding away at the door of our office again. Lucky we have our satellite office in the back of the Lone Star, otherwise we never would have got this issue to you. We might have all had to resort to other means of diverting ourselves, like going out looking for a serious case of the icksies. ▼

Don Dumas

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## THEATRE

# Birds of a feather

## 'Five Flights' soars at the Thick House

by Richard Dodds

About 20 minutes into *Five Flights*, I began to wonder how Adam Bock's new play would look on a Broadway stage. It's quirky and accessible and that good.

Contributing substantially to this positive reaction is director Kent Nicholson, whose work so

smoothly and rightly meshes with Bock's words that it's impossible to know where one begins and the other leaves off. And while other casts will surely one day be playing these roles, the melding of actors and characters in this debut production by Encore Theatre Company is sublime.

All of this comes as a pleasant surprise, but not really a big one. After all, Bock's first play after

moving to San Francisco was the delightful man-shark love story *Swimming in the Shallows*. But while the new play shares with *Shallows* a merrily skewed view of the world, *Five Flights* is a much more elaborate work that sends off all sorts of twisty tendrils.

A short summary of the play can make *Five Flights* sound deceptively mundane: A couple of grown siblings (and one cantankerous in-law) debate what should become of a decaying house-sized aviary that their late father built as a tribute to his deceased wife. He was certain that her soul had moved into the body of a wren.

But folded into this debate are issues of religious conviction, fear of romance, family commitments, and the way a Russian ballet resembles a hockey game, which, further explains a gay hockey player, is not unlike the synchronized movements found in a sex club.

This balletomane hockey player (the tall and appealing Craig Neibaur) starts off as an innocent bystander to the aviary discussions, but quickly begins courting the burned-by-love Ed (an edgy Liam Vincent), as one of Tom's rugged teammates (sweet, gruff Kevin Karkick) tries to play matchmaker.

Ed wants to see the aviary crumble to dust, but his lesbian sister Adelle (a quietly intense Lisa Steindler) is ready to turn over the



Craig Neibaur and Liam Vincent in Encore Theatre Co.'s *Five Flights*

big birdhouse to her born-again friend Olivia (Alexis Lezin in a performance of evolving wackiness) for use as a temple for a curious religion based on the supreme sanctity of birds. There is a heterosexual sibling, but Bob is kept offstage. His martinet wife Jane (a frightful and funny Dawn Elin Fraser) is on hand to argue for commercial development of the old aviary.

Nicholson's direction makes the most from a nearly bare stage at Thick House as he creates his own visual interest with little more than the movement of the actors. They zig and they zag,

which is what Bock's script does. This playwright always seems to have another surprise ready to keep us in a state of blithe unbalance.

In the end, you may wonder if all the pieces really do fit together — at least in the way we usually expect everything to be neatly tied up. But Bock doesn't diverge from a unifying spirit that sees the complexity of life through a cracked yet still rosy lens. ▼

*Five Flights* will run at the Thick House through Feb. 24. Tickets are \$20. Call 401-8081.



Geoff Hoyle as Berenger, Jarion Moore as Jean in *Rhinoceros*

# Beastly behavior

## 'Rhinoceros' in Berkeley

by Richard Dodds

Eugene Ionesco helped usher in a theatrical revolution that eventually left him behind. While a play like *Rhinoceros* was considered jarringly avant-garde when it debuted 1958, it now seems tame to what such post-Ionesco playwrights as Edward Albee, Christopher Durang and Tony Kushner now regularly offer mainstream audiences.

Still, it is worthwhile to revisit the progenitors of any important artistic movement, and Berkeley Rep is offering a production of *Rhinoceros* that connects often enough to convey the essence and message of Ionesco.

Other than the fact that the citizens of a close-knit town are quickly turning into rhinoceroses, the play is fairly straightforward. And even these cases of "rhinocerotitis," as the play terms it, are not so outlandish once it becomes clear that these transformations are part of the snowballing group-think that can turn plain folk into fascists.

Directed by Barbara Damashek, the Berkeley Rep production dresses up the play with some imaginative and openly theatrical special effects. Christopher Barreca's set is in itself a special effect as it creates topsy-turvy variations on such simple concepts as up and down.

But even with all this, and a cast of mostly superior accomplishment, *Rhinoceros* can't avoid

stretches of tedium. The play gets off to a slow start as a hapless Everyman named Berenger (Geoff Hoyle in a suitable performance) is scolded by his imperious friend Jean for not making something of his life. At an adjoining café table, two other characters trade foolish syllogisms contributing to a tumble of words in the lengthy, unfocused scene.

It's not the only moment when attention flags, but there are also several scenes where play and production pull together to create theatrical electricity. The scene set in the bureaucrat Berenger's office is sublime as these drones debate whether there are rhinoceroses on the loose, a debate that comes to an end when a rhino knocks down the staircase to their office. Special credit here to Gerald Hiken for his comic portrayal of a fussy, small-minded man.

Another highlight comes when Berenger visits his friend Jean at his home, only to find him moaning in bed with some unclear malaise. Jean sports a bump in the middle of his forehead, a green pallor, a guttural voice, and an increasingly violent demeanor. Jarion Monroe, terrific at effecting this man-to-rhino transformation, really does reveal the beast within. And that's what the play is about. ▼

*Rhinoceros* will run at Berkeley Rep through March 10. Tickets are \$42-\$54. Call (510) 647-2949.

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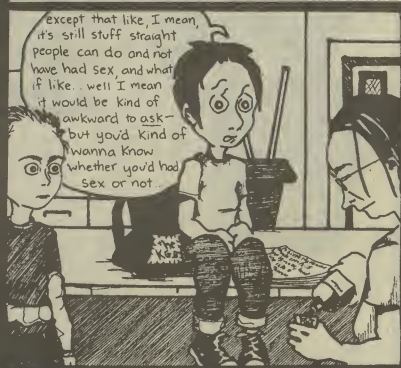
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# The young and the tenor

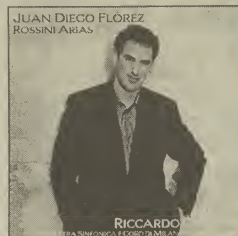
Juan Diego Flórez, Marcelo Alvarez, others out on CD

by Stephanie von Buchau

**M**y late friend Martin Frick, the voice doctor, once explained to me why operatic tenors always seemed to be short. It was the nature of the beast: a high voice requires vocal cords that vibrate fast; i.e., the shorter, the higher. And if the vocal cords are short, it stands to reason that so, usually, is the rest of the man. With much giggling, we'd then discuss the length of a baritone's... er... vocal cords.

If short stature is the measure of a tenor's skill, Juan Diego

Flórez, the Peruvian tenore di grazia (the lightest, most flexible lyric tenor), is a big man indeed. Diminutive but adorable, the curly-headed Flórez flexed his pipes at the San Francisco Symphony several years ago when he sang the tenor part in Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. His aria, "Cujus animam," demonstrated fluent legato, extended breath and easy jumps to the high register. I immediately wanted to know why San Francisco Opera hadn't signed him.



JUAN DIEGO FLÓREZ  
ROSSINI ARIAS

Finally, they did, and Flórez appears in *Cenerentola* next year. In the meantime, we have his debut solo disc, *Rossini Arias* (Decca), to keep us company. The 28-year-old matinee idol, who just made his Metropolitan Opera debut this month as Count Almaviva, sings an aria from *The Barber of Seville* on this disc, but not the expected "Ecco, ridente." Instead, he sings a difficult alternate aria, "Cessa di più resistere," that employs the melody of "Non più mesta," the mezzo's rondo from *Cenerentola*.

Tenors have difficulty getting their chops around this piece, but Flórez displays arrogant ease with the coloratura in all these arias. His vocalism has been described by a panting British critic as "an improbable thing of liquid, care-less beauty delivered with effort-less charm, cool style and beautifully trazed, intelligent phrasing." I agree, though I would warn the casual listener that eight Rossini arias ending with rapid-fire coloratura may be too much of a good thing at one sitting. Gaze endlessly at Flórez's handsome mug, but you may want to savor these arias one at a time. Riccardo Chailly is the accomplished conductor.

## Sounds easy

The second cutie on my survey of tenors is taller than usual, good-looking and, like Flórez, speaks Spanish. He's Marcelo Alvarez, a young Argentine who has made several solo albums, including one of songs by Carlos Gardel, the great tango singer. In the past, I've found Alvarez's operatic singing too strenuous and stress-

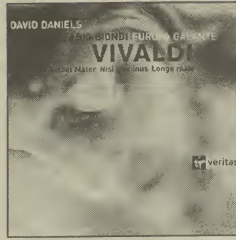


MARCELO  
ÁLVAREZ  
FRENCH  
ARIAS

ful, but he seems to have achieved a breakthrough on *French Arias* (Sony Classical). It is true that many singers sound extraordinary in French — Roberto Alagna is a boor in Italian; in French, he's a heartthrob. Alvarez's current specialty is making it sound easy.

He opens with Werther's "Pourquoi me revellier," delivered with such honeyed assurance that he almost sounds as if he is not singing. That tight, forced quality that diminished the pleasure of listening to a handsome voice is gone, and one can now concentrate on the long line, the masculine tone, the deep expressiveness. Alvarez doesn't flinch from the hard stuff. Along with the usual French tenor suspects (Romeo, Faust, Werther, Des Grieux), he also sings the gut-busting "Pour mon ame" from *Fille du regiment*, with its nine high Cs; the high-lying "Asile héréditaire" from *Guillaume Tell*; and "Ange si pur" from *La Favorite*. He may not eclipse Alfredo Kraus in this repertoire, but he comes close enough to be impressive. I wish he had sung the impossible aria and cabaret from Verdi's *Les Vespri sicilienne* rather than the more common *Don Carlos* aria, but other than that, I have no complaints on this disc. Alvarez is accompanied by Mark Elder.

Still, my favorite high-voiced hunk is David Daniels (don't even speculate on how short his vocal cords are). His latest disc is an all-Vivaldi set with the baroque violinist and bandleader Fabio Biondi and Biondi's period band, Europa Galante (Virgin Veritas). Daniels whips through the coloratura "Amen" in the psalm "Nisi Dominus" in a manner that might



DAVID DANIELS  
FABIO BIONDI/EUROPA GALANTE  
VIVALDI  
Amen, Psalm 134

impress even Flórez, while his tender interpretation of the beautiful *Stabat mater* makes me melt all over my keyboard. We get Daniels back in SF this summer in the title role of Handel's *Giulio Cesare*. Can hardly wait.

My final tenor goes under the rubric, "Handsome is as handsome does," because Salvatore Licitra is the classic short, rotund, Italian tenor. But looks don't count on Licitra's first complete opera recording, Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, live from the opening night of La Scala. This young tenor, whose career is only four years old, was discovered and nurtured by Riccardo Muti, chef of La Scala. Apparently, the conductor has tamed his unruly Italian audience, because they cheer rather than catcall when Licitra sings the correct Verdian ending to "Di quella pira" rather than interpolating that egregious (but exciting) high C.

Frankly, though Licitra is vibrant and masculine-sounding, and baritone Leo Nucci and mezzo Violeta Urmana are certainly intelligent, well-schooled singers, you want this *Trovatore* for Muti's conducting — he shapes the lyrical music gorgeously, and whips up tremendous excitement in the cabaretas — and for Barbara Frittoli, the radiant Leonora. This Milanese soprano is easily the best Verdian vocalist to come along in ages. (Her solo album of Verdi arias on Erato is glorious.) Her lovely, feminine sound is supported by a strong technique, and she can rip off the coloratura with ease and in-your-face panache. This *Trovatore* is being marketed for Licitra, but Frittoli is the star. ▼

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## What Time Is It

◀ Arts cover

Kang is stunned when a very portly young man steals the clock back and later uses it as a prop in a rather strange men's room striptease.

Speaking very little French, Shiang-Chyi finds herself bouncing aimlessly around Paris, overdosing on coffee, throwing up in a very pissy French toilet, and finally (in a phrase I can't resist from the film's publicist) lunging "into the lesbian love pool."

It's a very typical slice of the personal cinema of Taiwanese auteur Tsai Ming-Liang (*Vive L'Amour*, *The River*), where filmmakers are pretty much left to their own devices. Seldom is there a plot as such, the characters are mostly neurotic loners who don't talk much, at least one or more of the characters are queer in some rather subversive way, the camera isn't always zooming in and out giving you clues of what to look for, there's no music at all, and when the director has had his say, the film simply ends.



Lee Kang-Sheng: food for the soul

*What Time Is It There?* represents a huge step up in the quality of the images on the screen. Tsai

next page ►



## MUSIC

# Breaking new ground

## 'American Mavericks' in book and CD

by Philip Campbell

When Walter Damrosch led the first performance of Aaron Copland's Symphony for Organ and Orchestra in 1925, the brave conductor turned to the Carnegie Hall crowd. "If a young man at the age of 23 can write a symphony like that," he smiled, "in five years, he will be ready to commit murder."

That story and many others of similar wit and insight are told in *American Mavericks: Visionaries, Pioneers, Iconoclasts*, an entertaining and informative new book from University of California Press.

*Mavericks* has been compiled as part history of the radical music movement in America, and part biographical profile of the groundbreaking composers who formed it. They started to sweep the cobwebs from the classical music scene. The book is also a document of the festival by the same name that blew the roof off Davies Hall in June 2000.

From A for Adams to Z for Zappa, the handsome and readable volume covers all of the composers included in the event and does a good job of explaining their importance. They may all not be capable of murder, but they are united in killing the conventions cramping "serious" Western music.

A compact disc is included with fascinating conversations between San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas and composers Lou Harrison, Lukas Foss, John Adams, Steve Mackey and David Del Tredici. Meredith Monk speaks briefly.

The disc features introductions by MTT to various pieces in the festival; some excerpts from scores by Henry Cowell, Charles Ives, George Antheil and others, and complete live recordings of works by John Cage and Morton Feldman.

It is a useful and tantalizing addition to the book, but maddening also. After 70 minutes of mouth-watering *hors d'oeuvre*, we hunger for a full meal. That is the point, of course. At least the highly selective discography tells us what is available for listening.

Calling the composers mavericks is particularly apt. Like the free-ranging, unbranded cattle won long ago in a poker game by



Composer Henry Cowell plays the piano his own way.

Samuel Augustus Maverick, the fiercely independent artists of the 20th and early 21st centuries broke free from most boundaries. As soon as they made their own rules, they gleefully broke them.

The American mavericks hail from up and down the East and West Coasts, even from the South and other countries. Steve Reich drove a cab in San Francisco, and the great-grandfather of them all, Charles Ives, never quit his day job in the insurance business. They are impossible to stereotype, and they cross all ethnic and economic barriers.

There is plenty of information about each of the composers, served by the book in a pleasantly un-academic tone. The major lights are given more space, but even the briefest biographies create a clear portrait of their subject.

Sections devoted to Charles Ives and Aaron Copland by the enlightened former program annotator for the SFS, Michael Steinberg, are central to the book. Arguably, the best reading of all comes from Grover Sales on the noble life and times of Duke Ellington.

It is high time Edward Kennedy Ellington was accorded undisputed parity with other musical geniuses of the last century. His great popularity never dampened his adventurous spirit. He grew as an artist, pioneering new

forms, until his death.

There are bits of startling information scattered throughout the commentary. Were you aware that Henry Cowell, inventor of the "tone cluster," did time in San Quentin for homosexual conduct? Did you know that he arranged for gifted composer Ruth Crawford Seeger to study with his own mentor, Charles Seeger? They were both early in defying the prevailing misogyny of the compositional community.

There are loads of wonderful photographs and even some vintage cartoons, but it is the brilliant editing by Susan Key and Larry Rothe that marks *American Mavericks* as a terrific book for "dipping."

If there is any real complaint, the general attitude of the book would lead you to believe that if it weren't for MTT and his American Mavericks Festival, the Bay Area might never have known the importance of the featured composers. Hello: I'm not the only one who remembers the awesome New and Unusual Music Series back in the '80s — a guy named John Adams was there, too.

Still, it takes a star and a musical pied piper like Michael Tilson Thomas to make this kind of thing a moneymaker, and we certainly have to admit, *American Mavericks*, the book, is an unqualified delight. ▼

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Photo by Andrew Eccles

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## What Time Is It

◀ previous page

Ming-Liang is working for the first time with a world-class French cinematographer, Benoit Delhomme (Mike Figgis' *The Loss of Sexual Innocence*), whose debut feature with Vietnamese filmmaker Tran Anh Hung, *The Scent of Green Papaya*, was an astonishingly sensual merging of Asian and Western sensibilities. Tsai is now free to paint on a properly lit canvas. The stationary camera he employed in all his previous features no longer results in static images, producing an incredibly rich and visible mise-en-scene, leading to improbably moving scenes like Fatty and the Widow.

### Sleeping beauty

The film is not for everyone. Tsai has admitted caring not a fig

for story in the conventional sense, but claims to be trying to release emotion on screen, creating odd situations in which his characters discover who they are. In *Vive L'Amour*, the young gay crematorium salesman gently kisses a sleeping leather boy and pulls back, startled by the very nakedness of his desire. But for those with patience and a sense of adventure, Tsai's very queer films (he's careful not to label them gay for fear of upsetting the very conservative Chinese culture from which they spring) are food for the soul. Like Ang Lee's treatment of suburban angst, *The Ice Storm*, and Allan Ball's comic roiling of our funeral taboos, *Six Feet Under*, Tsai's films allow some of us to meet our very naked selves in the icy cool darkness of the cinema.

In *What Time Is It There?*, Tsai gets his own revenge on globalization in a film that represents a

long-delayed release of grief from the 1992 death of his father. In one scene, Shiang-Chyi is boldly propositioned in a cemetery by an older man, deftly played by French film icon Jean-Pierre Leaud, the famous alter ego of Francois Truffaut, who is the closest thing to a film father that Tsai can claim. All along, Tsai has wittily quoted Truffaut and Leaud's own first film, *The 400 Blows*. The love/grief junkie Hsiao Kang is watching the scene where the then-14-year-old Leaud steals a quart of milk and then gulps it down like it was a down payment on all the sweet things that would ever brush his lips. It's the most naked moment possible in film, a filmmaker giving a kind of cinematic blow job to his film father's own dearest creation, breathing artistic life into what a philosopher has called the pederasty of autobiography. ▼



# Wheel life

## 'Beijing Bicycle' rolls in

by David Lambie

An 18-year-old Beijing boy rides his almost brand-new mountain bike along a wooded path from school to the back alley apartment he shares with his father, stepmother and stepsister. Jian (Lee Bin), his white shirttail and red uniform tie flapping in the breeze, is deliriously happy — his hands don't touch the handlebars, his feet seem to dance in rhythm with the pedals. Jian's possession of the bike means he's already arrived, and can hang out with the cool crowd at school, boys whose use their bikes to pull X Games-like stunts, or to pick up girls.

Guei (popular Chinese TV star Cui Lin), also 18, has a problem with the very same bike that Jian is so cheerfully riding. Guei has broken his back to pay for the bike, carrying packages for a Beijing messenger service. It's stolen from him and later purchased unknowingly by Jian at a second-hand flea market. This bike that both boys own, in a sense, is the focal point for director Wang Xiaoshuai's breathtaking new comedy/drama, *Beijing Bicycle*, opening Friday.

For Jian, the bike is a prideful possession. It allows him that most basic of teenage rights, the ability to cop an attitude. For Guei, no bike means no job and pretty soon no Beijing, for Guei is a dirt-poor just-off-the-farm peasant, part of a huge class of people the Chinese government treats like illegal aliens.

*Beijing Bicycle* is a great film for the subtitled-impaired, since the dialogue is sparse, often funny

and right to the point. Guei, lacking an apartment of his own, is living with another ex-peasant, who now runs a small grocery. The two country bumpkins brush their teeth in the street while having heartfelt discussions about girls above their class, including the mysterious "Lady in Red," whose red high-heel shoes give her a sultry step as she slithers into the shop to pick up soy sauce in returnable bottles.

*Bicycle* fittingly steals its first act from Vittorio De Sica's 1949 classic *The Bicycle Thief* — just when a poor worker thinks he's been granted a piece of heaven, his dreams are crushed by the theft of his precious bicycle — but then the film takes a sharp turn and becomes a Chinese version of an American teen melodrama, the bicycle becoming less a practical tool of economic survival and more a means of defining status and marking turf. Unlike Antonio in *The Bicycle Thief*, Guei gets his bike back several times, only to lose it again to a gang of boys supporting Jian's claim. The crux of the problem is that Jian didn't steal Guei's bike, just the money to buy it, from his tight-fisted, old-fashioned father (Zhao Yiwei).

### Brat slap

In a scene with an odd echo of James Dean fighting with a clueless dad (Jim Backus) in *Rebel Without a Cause*, Jian, who hides his insecurity behind a bratty facade, almost boastfully admits to stealing the money, bitterly accusing his father of robbing him of the status due him as a good student by repeatedly breaking his word to buy Jian a bike. The



Lee Bin as Jian and Gao Yuanhuai as Xiao in Wang Xiaoshuai's comedy/drama *Beijing Bicycle*

father responds by slapping Jian to the ground. Oddly, no one accuses the father of child abuse or tries calling the cops.

Cui Lin as Guei gets a lot of mileage from a silent-screen actor's trick of exaggerating simple emotions. His pitiful crying gets his bike boss (Xie Jian) to give him a second chance, while his stubborn refusal to let go of the bike forces a kind of Hobson's choice solution, allowing Guei and Jian to discover how much they have in common without the

sentimental ploy of having them become bosom buddies.

Director Wang breaks the rules, introducing a major character late in the film, Da Huan (Li Shuang), a Chinese bikerboy Matt Dillon with red hair, pouty good looks and a habit of settling problems with his fists. Wang subtly builds tension through the expressive use of extreme long shots, and by having key action take place off-screen. In the heartpounding third act, Wang's fluid camera makes a bike chase

through a shabby back alley neighborhood alternately tense and funny.

*Beijing Bicycle* resembles Morgan J. Freeman's underappreciated *Hurricane Streets*, where a gang of underclass teens, led by the Dean-evoking Brendan Sexton III, stampede through New York's mean streets on small bikes, leaving a mini-crime wave in their wake. In both films, the kids act instinctively, often brutally, without thought for anything but immediate pleasure. ▼

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# Hollywood royalty in boffo teen comedy

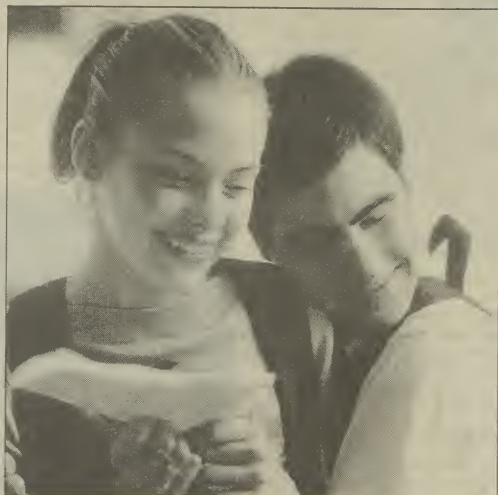
Jason Schwartzman as loser in 'Slackers'

by David Lamble

In *Rushmore*, director Wes Anderson's tone poem to geekdom, Jason Schwartzman is Max Fischer, a precocious 15-year-old prep-school student with the personality of a Hollywood producer. At first glance, nothing can happen at Rushmore Academy that hasn't received Max's blessing. He's invincible until he falls for a first-grade teacher (Olivia Williams) and starts a duel to the death for her affections with a local tycoon, Herman Blume (Bill Murray).

Max, like the old Hollywood moguls, is a complete tyrant, with the saving grace of old-fashioned good manners. If you can ever get his attention, he'll look you in the eye and maybe buy you something. With Max, even a handshake can seem like being received by the Queen.

Young actor Jason Schwartzman is real-life show-biz royalty, the son of actress Talia Shire and the late producer Jack Schwartzman. A teenage drummer in the rock band Phantom Planet, as a goof he went to a party in tux and tails, where *Rushmore's* casting director was chatted up by his cousin Sofia Coppola. She said, "You should talk to my cousin Jason." Three weeks later, he was in Houston, playing against "Ghostbuster" Murray. "I remember early on asking him, 'Why does my character like your character?' and he sighed, 'Just say the



Angela (James King) and 'Cool Ethan' (Jason Schwartzman) share a tender moment in Dewey Nicks' *Slackers*.

lines and be funny."

Like Max, always in charge, Jason spent the first few minutes of our chat auditioning me. "Do you keep tapes of all your interviews? What was Colin Hanks like?" Noticing that my hand was hurting from the weight of the portable tape machine, Jason placed his arm under mine. The moment is oddly like Max's attempted seduction of the teacher. "To be honest, the kissing scene isn't in the script. The scene is

there, the kiss is not. It was the last night of shooting with Olivia, and I just said to Wes, 'I'm going to fucking kiss her. I just kissed her, and that was the only take we got.' In our scene, Jason and I never get to the kiss.

Jason is in town to promote a very different kind of school comedy, *Slackers*. TV ad director Dewey Nicks makes his feature debut with a script by David H. Steinberg ("I superglued myself to myself," *American Pie 2*).

## Closing time



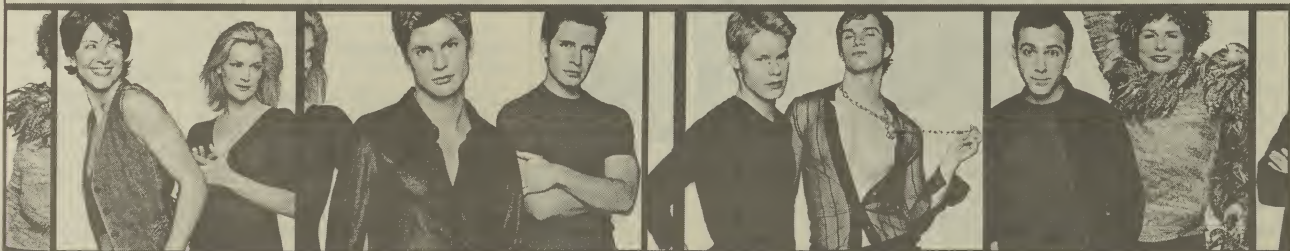
When we first meet postal worker Janos Valushka (Lars Rudolph), it's last call at a tavern in small-town Hungary. He's organizing a little dance of its habitués in this surrealistic drama by avant-garde Hungarian filmmaker Bela Tarr, based on the novel *The Melancholy of Resistance* by Laszlo Krasznahorkai. There's political tension, there's bleak, wintry, Eastern European skies, and there's black-and-white cinematography by Gabor Medvigy and a score by Mihaly Vig. Hey, this ain't another vapid Hollywood product! English subtitles; also starring Peter Fitz and Hanna Schygulla. At the Castro Theatre, Feb. 1-7. ▼

Schwartzman plays a hyperactive loser, "Cool Ethan," whose efforts to break up a band of grade-cheaters goes hilariously awry. Jason notes that there was a big difference playing a boffo grossout teen comedy like *Slackers* from the approach needed for the carefully constructed social satire of *Rushmore*. Suddenly snapping his fingers, Jason made a musical analogy. "In drumming, there's the beat and that is

your guideline. I think *Rushmore* is a little behind the beat, it's written carefully, economically. With *Slackers*, it's frenetic, kinetic. It is over-the-top, it's hitting you over the head with it. It's trying to make a joke out of things that aren't even funny. It's just going for it because why not go for it." ▼

*Slackers* opens Friday.

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# Appreciating bodies in motion

Kathleen Marshall choreographs 'Kiss Me, Kate' for the Orpheum

by Richard Dodds

**G**limpses of sweaty, sexy guys in underwear and boots provided choreographer Kathleen Marshall with a noticeable bit of inspiration for the Broadway revival of *Kiss Me, Kate*, arriving Feb. 5 at the Orpheum Theatre.

"I love it when you go backstage at a show during intermission, and people are half-in and half-out of their costumes," she said. "They're sweaty and walking around in their underwear and boots. It's very sexy, and we wanted to bring all that out."

Despite Cole Porter's participation, *Kiss Me, Kate*, one of the great backstage musicals, doesn't have a hint of gay characters. Not unexpected; after all, it opened in 1949.

"But that kind of sexuality is present in any kind of theater company," the rising-star choreographer said. "I certainly try in my choreography, unlike the kind of partnering where it's all just men



Marshall builds a touring company

with women, to give the men their fair due."

When the musical returned to Broadway two years ago, it was praised for the way the new creative team managed to give fresh

life to the material without compromising its essentials.

"I think *Kiss Me, Kate* has pretty much been relegated to summer stock companies who do it with operetta stars," Marshall said, "and the original choreography [by Hanya Holm] seemed to be kind of harlequin folkdance-y. I knew right away we needed to rescue this musical, dust off the cobwebs, and pull out the sensuality in all its flavors."

Marshall is intrigued at how dancer's bodies have changed over the years. "If you look at that original poster from *A Chorus Line* with all those people lined up, the guys look so skinny," she said. "But to our eyes in the mid-'70s, they were very fit and some of them were hunky. Dancers are definitely leaner, stronger, and more muscular now, and I use that. There is definitely a sense of appreciating bodies in this production."

## Hands on

Marshall, director Michael Blakemore, and other members of

the creative team were hands-on when it came time to build a touring company. While some of Marshall's original choreography was built around the talents of the Broadway cast, she has adjusted her work as much as she can to fit the new cast. Rex Smith and Rachel York are the stars of the tour, playing sparring former spouses reunited for a musical version of *The Taming of the Shrew*.

*Kiss Me, Kate* was not Marshall's first Broadway credit as choreographer, but it is by far her most potent. Its success led to two more high-profile assignments, *Seussical* and *Follies*, that met with oddly mixed receptions.

*Seussical* was expected to be the big hit of 2000, but, thanks to the Internet, its out-of-town problems became common knowledge. "It was a rough experience," she said.

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Mario Barricelli as Edward de Vere, Alex Moggridge as his lover Henry

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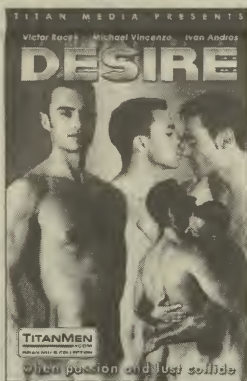
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## Tweaking Shakespeare

ACT's 'The Beard of Avon'

by Richard Dodds

**W**hen a sexually unsophisticated William Shakespeare gets his nipple tweaked by another man in *The Beard of Avon*, the bemused reaction of Matthew Boston is priceless. We watch as his Will registers horror, confusion, and ultimately, curiosity.

Boston's performance as a sweet rural everyman with a buried genius is one of the best reasons to see Amy Freed's historically speculative comedy at ACT. The play itself is a mildly amusing affair that may remind some theatergoers of *Shakespeare in Love*, though Freed apparently began work on her play before that movie came out.

Most of our impressions of Shakespeare as a man stem from stately drawings and portraits, what we can surmise from his writings, and a dribble of authenticated biography. But a theater career at the end of the 16th century could hardly have been a stately profession, and *The Beard of Avon* reminds us that Shakespeare was a guy before he was an icon.

The genesis of Freed's play is the author question, a long simmering debate over who really wrote the works of Shakespeare. After all, say the contrarians, Shakespeare was a barely literate

rube. Maybe Edward de Vere, the Earl of Oxford, really wrote all those great plays.

Freed accepts some of the revisionist premise, but massages it in a way that keeps Shakespeare in the loop, though not as a solo genius. Yes, de Vere did stir Shakespeare's latent greatness, but only after hiring this bit-part actor to affix his name to de Vere's own plays. In a bit of the whimsy that threads through the play, even Queen Elizabeth turns out to be a closet playwright.

Director Mark Rucker mostly keeps things light, but there are times when the energies crossing over to the audience are on low power. In addition to Boston's Stan Laurel-like Shakespeare, Marco Barricelli provides the polysexual Edward de Vere with swashbuckling caddishness, Kandis Chappell creates a Queen Elizabeth of comically impatient majesty, and Rene Augesen plays Shakespeare's discontented wife before disguising herself as a bawdy strumpet.

Freed is a playwright with an amiable, airy touch, which makes *The Beard of Avon* pleasant enough to see — if not exactly must-see. ▼

*The Beard of Avon* will run at the Geary Theater through Feb. 10. Tickets are \$15-\$61. Call 749-2228.

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# Veeps and creeps for sweeps

by Victoria A. Brownworth

We've said it before: if we believed in conspiracy theories, the timing of the Enron debacle would look suspiciously like sweeps-month scripting to us. It has all the components of a Fox reality show or an Aaron Spelling miniseries: avarice, lies, cheating, double-dealing, treachery, theft, influence-peddling, and, of course, tragedy. Thousands lost their jobs, hundreds of thousands lost their life savings, and one former Enron exec killed himself last week, just as he was due to testify before the Congressional committee about blowing the whistle a year ago.

For those looking for the upside of the Enron scandal: anything that can get Dick Cheney out of that undisclosed location can't be all bad. He's been on *Meet the Press* so often in recent weeks we're beginning to think he's Tim Russert's co-anchor. For anyone who thought he might have been changed by September 11, however, no kinder, gentler Cheney has emerged. He's still the dismissive, arrogant martinet he's always been. There may not (yet) be a smoking gun in the Bush Administration (after all, half the House and two-thirds of the Senate also took money from the company, which is the biggest advertisement for campaign finance reform we can imagine) but if there is one, Cheney's got it.

Enron continues to be the big TV story, but not the only one. Remember Afghanistan? Because we are still killing and displacing people there, even if we don't have a clue where Osama bin Laden is.

Speaking of Afghanistan: Why isn't John Walker Lindh at Guantanamo Bay being eaten alive by lice and mosquitoes, like the other alleged Taliban and Al Qaeda fighters? And how exactly do his parents, whom he hasn't seen or spoken to in over two years, know for a fact, as they stated in their news conference after his arraignment last week, that Lindh never fought against the US and was never involved with the Taliban? Perhaps, unlike us, they didn't hear him speaking with an Arabic accent when he was questioned by the CIA and declaring his Taliban status. Of course we know one can't believe everything one sees on TV; just ask those Simi Valley jurors from the Rodney King trial. We suppose it just depends on what the definition of is. But it seems to us that if the men being held at Guantanamo Bay and Lindh all came from the same place, then they should be held in the same place. If Lindh can be de-iced, given indoor accommodations, and allowed time in the dark to sleep (the constant klieg lighting at Guantanamo not only attracts more mosquitoes, it goes against the Geneva Convention; humans are diurnal and need darkness for restful sleep), shouldn't the prisoners at Guantanamo be afforded the same treatment?

We're not saying coddle those who may have helped plot 9-11. But if we see these disparate views on the news each night, then so does the rest of the world. It tarnishes our moral stature when we treat these prisoners as less than

human. Turnabout is *not* fair play, just unnecessary brutality. We'd like to see the American media report on the real conditions of Guantanamo. The major networks have been reporting on similar circumstances in other nations for years. It's been five months since 9-11. How long are we going to give the Bush Administration the kid-glove treatment? This is still a democracy, and we do have freedom of the press here. Let's exercise it.

ABC has shown this week just how much good reporting can do. On 20/20, now back on Friday nights with veteran journalist John Miller as Barbara Walters' new co-anchor, reporter Brian Ross uncovered just how many uninvestigated rape cases there were in the US.

For lack of funds, rape kits go unexamined and rape cases unsolved. 20/20 paid for several hundred cases to be examined with disturbing results. Several cases were solved as a result of the investigation, including a horrifying rape/murder, a case of serial rape, and one man, wrongly identified by the rape victim, who was found innocent on the basis of DNA testing.

## Heart of darkness

Such reportage illumines the vital importance of the press, in particular widely-viewed TV news. TV cameras draw attention like nothing else. That was why so many victims of the atrocities in Congo risked their lives to speak to Ted Koppel when he went there to do a series for *Nightline*. "What did you eat today? How much money did you spend? What medications do you have in your bathroom cabinet?" These questions weren't posed directly on *Congo: Heart of Darkness*, but one would need a heart as cold as Cheney's for those questions *not* to resonate. There may be crueler places on Earth than Congo (formerly Zaire); there may be places with more stultifying poverty, more violence, and more disease, but it's difficult to imagine where they might be.

In two years, 2.5 million people have been killed in Congo as a result of an undeclared war between Rwandan guerrillas and Congolese fighters. The images are nearly unbearable to see. Thousands of children have been maimed by the Mai-Mais, the guerrillas who hack away at the living with machetes until they get what they want. Millions of women and girls have been raped and tortured by soldiers on both sides. One young woman, 16, described being raped by 30 men. Another detailed being raped so brutally her genitalia were torn out. An estimated 60 percent of the soldiers are infected with AIDS. If starvation and brutality don't kill these Congolese women and their children, AIDS and TB will. The round cheeks and bellies of the Congolese children are deceptive; they signal not health but edema and protein deficiency. TB, malaria and AIDS kill three out of four.

A century ago, when Congo was "owned" by Belgium, the Congolese were worked to death for the colonialist prizes of rubber and ivory. Now diamonds and the coltan used in cell-phone capacitors are the commerce. The color and ethnicity of the oppressors



Congolese strife, continued: a man steers past steaming lava in Goma.

have changed from white to black, from Belgian to African, but the pain inflicted is equally vicious and inhumane.

If a picture is worth a thousand words, a videotape is worth 10,000. When asked why she was willing to risk speaking out, one young woman, raped by a regiment of soldiers in front of her children, said, "We can't keep this a secret. We were openly violated. That's why we're using all our breath to explain our story to white people. We want them to know what really happened so that they can help us." But will we?

## All too real

ABC made its mark this week in news programming; NBC

caused a small uproar with *ER*. For years, *ER* has done cutting-edge queer stories including barebacking, "sharing the gift," and gay domestic violence. This week, *ER* addressed that well-kept but deadly secret, "down low" sex between men who don't identify as gay and don't play safe. By portraying the all-too-realistic storyline of a young rapper having unprotected sex with his closeted gay, HIV-infected manager while also having unprotected sex with his girlfriend, *ER* once again used prime time drama to bring a real-life drama out of the closet. HIV infection among young black men is on the rise. Kudos to *ER* for addressing a typical mode of transmission.

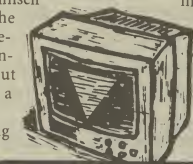
Kudos also for showing Weaver

(Laura Innes) and Lopez (Lisa Vidal) not just in bed together, but romping and kissing like real lovers — or heterosexuals. We also approve of Lopez outing Weaver at work with a great big lesbian kiss. "I did you a favor," she tells Weaver later when Weaver gives her a "how-dare-you" speech. Stay tuned for the fallout.

Speaking of prime-time realism, the premiere of the PBS series *American Family*, which airs for the next six Wednesdays, left us underwhelmed. Yes, it's great to see a story all about Latinos on a network other than Univision, but despite the stellar acting (Edward James Olmos, Sonia Braga and Esai Morales are standouts) and lush direction, there's simply nothing new here. This is a three-generations of working-class (fill in the blank) story. It could be Irish, Italian, Jewish. Enjoyable, but highly predictable.

And that's it, really: the power of TV — and its concomitant responsibility — can be awesome. It can tell us something we didn't know or put a whole new spin on something we did. We can turn off the TV, but we are left with those images, whether it's American workers cheated of their life savings, or Congolese cheated of their very lives. TV brings what's out there up-close and personal. It's up to us to do something about it. ▼

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# The party-boy solution

## Men's Inner Journey offers natural highs

by Mark Mardon

He's just into his 40s, a ruggedly good-looking man with a sturdy demeanor, soothing voice, and a boyish energy giving the seriousness of his message an uplifting lightheartedness. He's out to heal the wounded spirits of his fellow gay men, in particular those who have experienced the party scene in all its drug-addled fabulousness, and fallen hard from the heights of ecstasy.

Rather than shaking a fist at his "congregation" and telling them they're evil for their past sins, Men's Inner Journey founder and facilitator Michael Sigmann works passionately to steer his group's participants in a new direction, one that affords them all the passion and intensity they might find at circuit parties, but without the artificial highs and crashing lows.

To achieve a spiritual high without drugs, Sigmann knows, requires people first to calm down — way down. One reason so many men insist on turning to chemical ecstasy, it seems, is they never take the time to deeply meditate, to relax and clear their minds as well as their bodies. They remain in a sort of low-level ecstatic state (moderated, of course, by alcohol and sedatives) that ultimately wears them out.

That's the modern world in a nutshell.

Maybe that's why, throughout the Bay Area and across North America, gay men are showing a marked interest in quitting the chemical-based party habit. They're turning in droves to yoga, tai chi, Chi Kung, acupuncture, Feldenkrais, Eurythmy, Zen meditation, and other energy alchemy art forms. They're determined to reclaim their natural energy and balance, and to bring focus into their otherwise scattered lives. They want to be grounded enough to fly naturally.

Enter Michael Sigmann and Men's Inner Journey, which look to be playing prominent roles in healing our community's multiple hangovers, both physical and spiritual, for some time to come. Currently, the group offers two meditations on a weekly or bi-weekly basis, the first being a more passive, sitting meditation, held at the Hartford St. Zen Center (57 Hartford St.; 7:30 p.m. each Tuesday), a small, quiet sitting and ritual space in the Castro. A more active dance meditation takes place every other week at Ministries of Light, a larger space at Duboce and Mission, adorned with multiple statues and images of divine beings representing many spiritual traditions, plus an altar dominated by a giant video screen. The DJ setup stands to one side, where the pulpit would be in any other

church.

In that setting, a Men's Inner Journey gathering is well-attended with all kinds of men, but especially ones you'd expect to find at the White Party in Palm Springs: well-maintained, well-groomed, and giddy with brotherly love. There's no cruisiness, just sweet expressions of friendship, the occasional caresses and kisses between friends, and the deepest possible respect for everyone's personal sanctity.

### Heavy lifting

The whole affair is guided by the DJ and/or a facilitator, who deftly steers the men into deep sitting meditation, followed by standing and unloosening to tribal and/or chaotic rhythms, followed by full-on DJ'd dancing. In this final stage of ecstasy, on occasion the heavy lifting is done by tracks featuring divas singing gloriously upbeat dance songs dripping with love, harmony, Cosmic Awareness and all that jazz — which pushes the bounds of sappiness for those of us who like our divas dished out in strictly measured doses. Still, in this group, if you don't like the DJ's selections one day, don't worry: these guys know the party scene inside and out and have the DJ thing down. Sometimes the selections kick butt.

"When I finally got the courage to come out, I was 34 years old," confesses Detroit refugee Sigmann, who now coordinates not only the weekly gatherings in San Francisco, but intensive retreats in Marin County where men get to deepen their meditative and body-energy work. "For me, it was such an explosion onto the scene that the use of drugs and outrageous sex and all that sort of stuff played into my life, and when I saw where it was taking me, and how painful it was, I knew that there had to be another way."

Sigmann, who is now pursuing a Ph.D. in consciousness at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco, has been building his current career/spiritual path over the past eight years, but the 20 years prior he spent in "managing communications and marketing for hundreds of businesses worldwide."

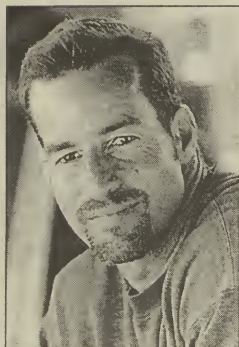
His skill in communicating shows in how fluidly he conducts the meetings when it's his turn. He's got the gentle, mellifluous, and (most importantly) persuasively earnest vocal style that turns otherwise ordinary preachers into potent televangelists. His goals, however, seem comfortably — and comfortably — down to earth.

Back in 1993, when he was ready to change his life, he enrolled in a workshop in San Diego that for nine days allowed him to "just sort of have out all my issues around being gay, where I could free up the strength inside of me to stand as a man in the world — as a gay man. It was very liberating."

But then the organization that so lifted him up, the Miracle of Love, showed the untruth of its name.

"For four or five years I went on their path," explains Sigmann, who shared the experience with a whole tribe of men working on self-healing. "Then Miracle of Love mission posted a policy on homosexuality, and said that 'you can't do your transformational work here anymore,' and 'we can't accept any more gay men into the curriculum,' which was a huge blow to me."

He attained justice in the old-fashioned way: by setting out to lift himself up after others let him down. Most importantly, he's suc-



Michael Sigmann: down to earth

ceeded. The story of Sigmann's founding Men's Inner Journey and seeing it blossom is the universal tale of how a man comes to triumph over adversity, in the process building up a community of like-minded people.

It was on September 11, 2001, that I experienced first-hand how powerfully the group's spirit resonates in time of deep stress. On that Tuesday night, as always, Men's Inner Journey met at the Hartford Street Zen Center, departing from their usual routine to allow extended opportunity for members to express their grief. Everyone was struggling to cope with the WTC/Pentagon/rural Pennsylvania tragedy. The men, mostly in their 30s and 40s, with some elders and youth, demonstrated remarkable calm. They were guided gently through their grief, supported with messages of love and hope. There were gentle sobs, but nobody lost it. Everyone present that terrible night grew stronger. Men's Inner Journey, no matter how cosmic at first glance, really is among the most grounded groups of gay men I've ever encountered. ▼

For more info about Men's Inner Journey, visit the Web at [www.mensinnerjourney.com](http://www.mensinnerjourney.com).

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## Kiss Me, Kate

◀ page 32

rience," she said, "because we started off so well. I just don't think we took the proper development process from the workshop to full production. But poor *Seussical*. No one in the press could refer to it without saying 'the troubled, critically disastrous, whatever.' We couldn't escape that label."

Marshall also choreographed the much-anticipated first Broadway revival of Sondheim's *Follies*. Because it was so anticipated, all artistic assignments on the show came with baggage.

"I guess I didn't realize how much baggage," she said. "The original production casts a long shadow. It's scary. You either have people who saw the original production 30 years ago and it changed their lives and nothing can equal it. Or people who never saw the original production but have listened to every cast recording ever made, and they've been waiting 30 years to see it. So, God knows what they build up in their heads by the time they walk in the door."

Marshall, 39 and currently unattached, grew up in Pittsburgh, PA, and followed her older brother Rob first as a dancer and then as choreographer. Before striking out on her own, she assisted her brother on several shows, including *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and the revival of *Damn Yankees*. She spent several years as artistic di-

rector of Encores!, the New York company that offers starry staged concerts of infrequently seen musicals, and her most current assignment is director and choreographer of *Carnival!* and *Encores*.

Marshall is beginning to explore the notion of being a director-choreographer, which she first did in a full New York production with the long-long-delayed debut of *Saturday Night*, by a very young Stephen Sondheim. That was in 2000, an amazing year for Marshall that, remember, also included her highest career note so far (*Kiss Me, Kate*) and the biggest disappointment (*Seussical*).

But *Seussical* did have an upside for Marshall, by putting her career into a saner perspective. "Not too long after *Seussical* opened, and I was feeling kind of depressed," Marshall said, "I went to [set designer] Robert Wagner's studio to talk about the *Kiss Me, Kate* tour."

"And I walked into his studio, and there are, like, 50 posters of Broadway shows he's worked on. There's *42nd Street* and *A Chorus Line* and *The Producers* and all the huge hits we know about, and there were also a lot of shows that weren't hits.

"I thought to myself, 'Oh, I get it. It's about the long term. It's about a career.' You gotta keep putting yourself out there." ▼

*Kiss Me, Kate* will run at the Orpheum Theatre through March 3. Tickets are \$34-\$76. Call 551-2020.



## FILM

## SF IndieFest

## ◀ Arts cover

tries varies, the fest is an ideal antidote to the vomitous star vehicles and knock-kneed epics spewed out with numbing regularity by Hollywood. This preview will look at some of the highlights.

All of this year's entries were shot before the attack on the World Trade Center, but a number of them feel somehow related. Calum Grant and Joshua Atesh Little's provocative mockumentary *Ever Since the World Ended* (Castro, 1/31) imagines a San Francisco decimated by a mysterious plague that has killed all but 186 people. Survivors interviewed include bands of boys eking out a living on beaches and in the woods, a deceptively "nice" group

meticulously detailed interplay of three methsters out of bounds. This sometimes overwrought but well-acted film is relentlessly creepy in detailing the compulsions of lost souls. Color filters and a pulsing score add to the hysteria.

More implosions occur in Toyoda Toshiaki's *Blue Spring*, a powerful variation on the ever-popular theme of Japanese schoolboys who spend their time beating the hell out of each other. Ryuhei Matsuda, who played the queer samurai boytoy in *Gohatto* last year, is Kujo, stylish gang leader, teenage nihilist, and occasional gardener. Kujo's status depends on his skill at the "clapping game," a deadly activity that he must constantly re-enact to maintain his power. The film has been compared to *Lord of the Flies*, but it has its own charms thanks to



Artist, devil-worshipper, Native American activist Rev. Steven Leyba

## No actress has ever looked better in sheriff drag than the gorgeously angular Mary Woronov in Todd Hughes' 'The New Women.'

of bourgeois communalists, and an unhinged fireman who sets fires instead of putting them out. The combination of skilled naturalistic acting and an air of terminal quiet, interrupted by occasional bursts of violence, gives the film a gravitas belied by its low budget. The format is DVD-PAL, which looks close enough to 35mm to fool viewers.

### Hard time

Of course, just because the world is ending doesn't mean we can't have a few laughs. Todd Hughes' camp-trash comedy *The New Women* stars indie empress Mary Woronov as Lisa La Strada, an ex-boozier who tries to navigate through a world where a mysterious rainstorm has left all the men comatose, though they do get erections every 45 minutes. When Lisa isn't taking advantage of this handy hard-on, she's arguing with her vicious sister, who's hoarding all the supplies, or bumping heads with a group of glassy-eyed goddess worshippers who chant and prance to hilarious effect. The film's main strength is Woronov, always a wonder, but never more than when she's screeching such bon mots as, "Apparently everybody in this town knows you're fucking this skag!" No actress has ever looked better in sheriff drag than the gorgeously angular Woronov.

Armageddon need not be a global affair; there's something to be said for internal blowouts, and there are several such entries in the fest. One of the best is Dan Mintz's claustrophobic quasi-horror film *Cookers*. This sledgehammer stroll through the world of drug-addled white trash takes place mostly in a creaky old house in the woods, where a trio of meth-heads are whipping up huge batches of the stuff. Mintz introduces a supernatural element, but there was no need. There are scares enough in the

strong performances and a scorching attack on dehumanizing Japanese consumer culture.

### Face time

Speaking of things queer, as one must, always, there are several films of interest. Charlie Adler's *No Prom for Cindy* is a startling "long short" (26 minutes) about a 14-year-old girl suspected by her friends of being lesbian. Adler took a risk in casting himself, a 45-year-old man, as "Cindy," and some may reject the conceit as plain silly. But the film gets mileage out of this trope, which forces viewers to consider how we think about gender, particularly in a scene where Cindy slips one of her gal pals a little tongue. Adler almost manages to become this giggling girl despite his tattooed bicep and beard.

Unseen by this reviewer but undoubtedly worth a look is Robert Taicher's *Shut Yer Dirty Little Mouth*. This feature is based on the "Shut Up Little Man" phenomenon familiar to fans of insane subcultures. The colorful ravings of two aging, probably queer but homophobic drunks living in a San Francisco dive were recorded by their first aggravated, then enchanted neighbors, who got to know Peter and Raymond and marketed their rants in a CD called *Shut Up Little Man!* Director Robert Taicher used these rants as the basis of the film.

Another San Franciscan plumbing the depths of alt.culture is Thoth, that wailing dervish in a loincloth familiar to many a 24th Street BART rider a while back and subject of Sarah Kernochan's documentary of the same title. Thoth describes himself as a "spiritual hermaphrodite," though cynics may dismiss such high-falutin' talk as the pretentious utterings of a mad queen. However, as the doc shows, Thoth is indeed an intelligent, thoughtful character who has created a very rich interior

world, complete with language and music, that he shares with the outside through his performances.

Queer-tinged though not authentically queer is the Reverend Steven Johnson Leyba, an artist, devil-worshipper, and Native American activist from San Francisco whose life and philosophy — and high heels, dick and ass — are on parade in Marc Rokoff's doc *Unspeakable*. Leyba was the guy at the Jack Davis party whose girlfriend shoved a whiskey bottle

up his ass and bloodied up his back. But, despite all the self-consciously shocking scenes in the film — and, be warned, there are many — Leyba is a very gifted visual and performance artist, and surprisingly low-key, sensible, almost "normal" in his interviews. He does not look good in high heels, however, and should perhaps stick to cloven hooves. ▼

Info at [www.sfindie.com](http://www.sfindie.com)

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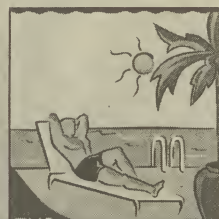
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# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon



The jazzy, snazzy Plush Room

## Classy culture

If you've been sticking with your old entertainment routine — grabbing a movie at the Castro, doing the local bar circuit, maybe getting out to a dance club — you may be overlooking an old-fashioned gay experience — taking your significant other to **The Plush Room**. To be authentically gay, in the elegant, decadent Diaghilev/Nijinsky way, means putting on your dapper best and getting out with your beau to mingle with society's crème de la crème. It doesn't get any crémier than when **Paula West** gets down with her soulful jazz at The Plush, as she'll be doing starting Tuesday, Feb. 5, and playing nightly Wed.-Fri. thereafter for an extended run. I've experienced West in this sumptuous setting, and though my personal style isn't quite as dapper as Diaghilev's, who gives a hoot when all eyes are focused on the sultry diva? She's the reigning queen of jazz. Plus the Plush martinis are divine. The skinny: \$25 cover w/2-drink minimum. 8 p.m. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800.

Also at The Plush, on Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24, is Connecticut-born **Kim Nalley**, kicking off "A Month of Sundays," a new series of cabaret/jazz performances designed to showcase and celebrate the Bay Area's finest local singing talents. The opening night will be followed by a reception in the lobby, with food from a local restaurant. It'll be a charity benefit, with the performer choosing the recipient.

Now let's skip on over to the **San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum**, which has been creating quite a stir lately with its many programs featuring renowned personages of the art world conversing with ordinary folks like us. Next up on the roster, on Friday, Feb. 1 at 12:15 p.m. is "A Conversation with **Len Cariou**," featuring the actor who received a Tony Award for his performance in *Sweeney Todd*, and who's currently starring in Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen* at the Curran Theatre. He'll discuss his work in theatre, movies and TV with Brad Rosenstein of the *SF Bay Guardian*. The skinny: \$10 (\$5 students/SFPALM members). 12:15 p.m. Veterans Bldg., 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister), 4th floor. Info: 255-4800; www.sfpalm.org

Also at SFPALM, on Monday, Feb. 4 at 6 p.m., members of the Bay Area comedy trio **Culture Clash** (**Richard Montoya**, **Ric Salinas**, and **Herbert Siguenza**) will engage in conversation with Rosenstein about their latest show, *Culture Clash in America*, which runs at Berkeley Repertory Theatre Feb. 1-Mar. 3. Learn more about the group at [cultureclash.com](http://cultureclash.com). ▼



Matt Vierling, Jeff Castle and Scott Cox play in *Legion* at NCTC. See Saturday.

## Fri

### El Teatro de la Esperanza

Wits End Theatre Company presents *On the Verge* (or the *Geography of Yearning*), a play by Eric Overmyer. The wanderlust of three Victorian ladies unexpectedly catapults them beyond the mystery of geography into the unmapped, undiscovered, and unimaginable reaches of time and human desire. It's an expedition into language, imagination and pop culture. \$12 (\$10 students/seniors). Fri. & Sat. at 8pm; Sun. at 7pm. Thru Feb. 17. Red Stone Building, 2940 16th St. (btwn Mission & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 385-5826; [www.urbanswamp.com/witsend](http://www.urbanswamp.com/witsend)

### Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AIRspace Artist-in-Residence Eric Kupers presents "Undressed and Adrift." Kupers' choreography explores the potent terrain of bodies in unexpected motion and the social and internal scripts that govern attitudes towards beauty, comfort, sexuality and relationship. In *Undressed*, Kupers interrogates the assumptions of physical beauty that have engendered an array of insecurities, from anorexia and bulimia, to self hatred and abuse. By exploring the naked body within the medium of dance, Kupers challenges the dancers and the audience to remember the innocence, power and beauty of the human body. In *Start Adrift*, Kupers teams up with Oscar Trujillo, Manuelito

Blag and Manfred Schaehtle to create a quartet exploring touch, the nature of emotional and physical relationships between men (particularly gay men), questions about what makes movement masculine, combining text with dance in new ways, the force of pure movement and the balancing of individual and collective. \$5-\$10 optional donation. 8pm; 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.) Info: 554-0402; [www.jonsimsctr.org](http://www.jonsimsctr.org)

### Dolores Park Cafe

Acoustic showcase: "San Francisco Songs," an intimate evening of live music featuring singer/songwriters Ellis (Rubberneck Records, Minneapolis), Garrin Benfield (Eighth Note Records, SF), and Deborah Pades (Mentl Music, SF), producer of this series. The venue, a clean, well-lit place for coffee and food, has become a popu-

lar place for folk music nights, and has a great window looking out onto the Dolores Park tennis courts. No cover. 7:30pm. 18th St. & Dolores. Info: [www.mentlmusic.com](http://www.mentlmusic.com)

### Main Library

Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library present a "\$1 or less Book Sale." All books \$1 or less (all books donated, no library discards). 11am-2pm (rain cancels). Larkin Street steps (at Grove). Info: 437-4857.

## Sat

### New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: NCTC continues its seventh Pride Season with the world premiere of Hal Corley's drama, *Legion*,

directed by Christopher Jenkins. In the early Eighties, sudden acquaintances, suburbanites Jonah and Sylvester, are thrown together at an obligatory backyard Super Bowl Sunday barbecue. The beer flows, the rain pours, and boredom ensues. Though both are happily married, to their own surprise and dismay, they find themselves in a startling erotic clench. After this life-changing moment, for the next 20 years, these men lead double lives and discover a secret "legion" of husbands whose worlds blur the boundaries of sexual orientation. \$18-\$28 (\$35 opening night). Wed.-Sat. at 8pm. Thru April 6. Matinees 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24 & 3/31 at 2pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; [www.nctcst.org](http://www.nctcst.org)

### Jon Sims Center for the Arts

Free workshop: "Unleashing Your Fire," the first in an ongoing weekly series, presented by California Arts Council Artist-in-Residence Veronica C. Combs, director of Liquid Fire Productions. Explore the intersection of race and erotic power through dance, writing and storytelling, theatre/improv, trust, vulnerability and other exercises. 10am-1pm. 1519 Mission St. Info/registration: 554-0402; [www.jonsimsctr.org](http://www.jonsimsctr.org)

### Jon Sims Center for the Arts

SFinX: San Francisco in Exile at the Jon Sims Center, hosts "Queer as Funk," a hot mix of local queer humor and slam poetry artists, whose performances will be recorded for the SFinX online archive. Featuring comic Karen Ripley (master of the dead-pan one-liner; star of Valerie Solanas' *Up Your Ass*); Oakland slam poet Sonia Whittle (Oakland Slamhostess); Berkeley slam poet Karen Ladson (co-founder of Birth of the Verse and Sheslam); Oakland slam poet Lucky 7; and the Deep Dickollective (their CD is titled *Bourgiebohohostpostmoafrohom*). Performances interspersed with wit from Kris Kovick's journals from her days as the MC of the seminal queer spoken-word shows at Red Dora's Bearded Lady Cafe, 1991-93 (Kovick founded the SFinX series in December 2000, and passed away last October). Hosted by Sara Moore and Marcus Rene Van. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 554-0402; [www.jonsimsctr.org](http://www.jonsimsctr.org)

### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Workshop: SF Jewish Family and Children's Services present "Transgendered Education for Parents," a presentation exploring what it means to be transgendered and how to discuss it with your children. Hear transgender parents talk about the issues they face as parents. Get a better

understanding of this topic and learn how you can embrace this segment of your community. Free. 10am-12 noon. 290 Dolores St. Info/RSVP: 861-6932; [www.shaarzahav.org](http://www.shaarzahav.org)

**Farley's coffee house**  
Opening reception: "How to Win an Argument," paintings by Jim Gaylord, diagrammatic schemes for social observations, peevish and neuroses. Free. 7-9pm. Located in the Potrero Hill district at 1315 18th St. Venue: 648-1545.

## Sun

### SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Devil's Hole, Las Trampas Regional Park Hike. Enjoy ascending the ridge, a descent into this famous hole itself, and then another ridge to the wind caves. It's a moderate 7-mile hike with a 1,299-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; [www.sfhiking.com](http://www.sfhiking.com)

### 18th and Collingwood, the Castro

Jump in the "Castro Bubble Bath" with your neighbors, and clean up the area. It's a sidewalk scrub-down project of Eureka Valley Promotion Association (EVPA), the neighborhood group. Residents, businesses and the DPW all will be out to clean around the intersection. Refreshments provided. Wear your worst clothes and be ready for bubble play. Free (donate energy, enthusiasm, & local pride). 8-10am. 18th and Collingwood streets. Info: [www.evpa.org](http://www.evpa.org)

### Koret Auditorium, Main Library

The Hormel Center presents filmmaker Pam Walton, who will show her award-winning documentary, "Call to Witness," about the struggle for the full inclusion of gays and lesbians in the Lutheran Church. Several of the film's subjects will be present for questions. Walton's film captures a piece of history and illustrates why religious debates are essential to the struggle for civil rights in every other arena. Free. 3pm. Info: 437-4855; [www.friend-sandfoundation.org](http://www.friend-sandfoundation.org)

### Jon Sims

### Center for the Arts

Special event: "In the Face of the Sun: Celebrating the 100th Birthday of Langston Hughes," hosted by Marvin K. White and Cedric Brown. An evening of poetry and performance in remembrance of one of America's most significant 20th century writers. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 1519 Mission St. Info: 554-0402; [www.jonsimsctr.org](http://www.jonsimsctr.org)

### Red Vic Movie House

Drs. Todd Herman & Francis Kohler will be present for the one-night-only screening of *Life Itself* (US 2000; video; 53 min.), a poetic documentary profiling three artists at Creativity Explored, an arts center for adults with disabilities. It plays with animated shorts by artists of Creativity Explored. \$6.50 adults (sorry, no passes/punchcards). Showtimes: 2:00, 4:00, 7:15, 9:15pm. 1727 Haight St. Info: 668-3994; [www.redvic-moviehouse.com](http://www.redvic-moviehouse.com)

## Mon

### Good Vibrations

Simon Sheppard reads from his acclaimed book of queer erotica, *Hotter Than Hell and Other Stories*. Free. 8pm.



Sacha Sacket plays at the GLBT Songwriters Series at Bazaar Cafe. See Wednesday.



Eric Overmyer's *On the Verge* plays at El Teatro de la Esperanza. See Friday.

1210 Valencia St. Info: 974-8980.

### The Forum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

**EARPLAY** presents the winners of the 2001 **EARPLAY** Composition Contest: the exquisite *Eco di un tempo perduto* by Italian composer Massimo Lauricella, and the invigorating *La Lutte Bleue* for cello and live electronics by Japanese composer Shintaro Imai. Also: new works from Bay Area composers Richard Felciano and Edmund Campion, plus Marja Mutru will perform Felciano's *Prelude* for solo piano, and Tod Brody will perform Campion's *Mathematica for flute and electronics*. Emerging composer Stacy Garrop performs with her playful and witty quartet, Little Bits; and violinist Ellen Ruth Rose performs the exciting and challenging *Green Suite* by another talented young composer, David Heetderks. Conducted by Mary Chun. \$18 (\$5 students w/ID). 8pm (pre-concert discussion at 7:15). Info: thecity.sfsu.edu/~earplay

## Tue

### Intersection for the Arts

Jazz At Intersection in association with Noir Records presents Miya Masaoka, an innovative, virtuosic koto player whose compositions cross the lines of jazz, world music and the avant garde. She has performed with Ornette Coleman, Cecil Taylor, Toshiko Akiyoshi and many others. Joining her will be Tabla Rasa (Tim Witter and Jim Santi Owen) and special guest Will Bernard on guitar. \$12-\$15. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. Tix/info: 626-3311; www.theintersection.org

### Community Art Program, Hospitality House

Opening reception: "Queer Streets," an exhibition of artwork by previously or currently homeless/at-risk queer artists. Featuring paintings, drawings, ceramics, mixed-media and creative writings by queer and questioning men, women and transgendered artists who are homeless or at-risk for homelessness. Each participant was asked to create a specific body of work that evokes their experience being queer and homeless, living on the streets, in shelters or margin-

ally housed in residential hotels in a land of plenty. It allowed the artists to celebrate being queer in the midst of being homeless, and drawing strength and power from their queer identity and community. The works will be available for purchase. Free. 6-8pm. 146 Leavenworth St. (btwn Turk & Golden Gate, one block north of Civic Center MUNI/BART. Bicycles welcome in studio). Info: Samantha Giles, CAP Director, 749-2132.

### Club Eros

Tantric Dick presents "Tantric Masturbation." Build up your erotic charge; explore new techniques as well as breathing; savor prolonged arousal and interaction in a clean, well-lit place with positive psychic/tantric energy. Surf the edge of cumming for an hour and a half. Free (donations for gay causes welcome). 7:30-9pm (door opens at 7pm & closes at 7:30 or when room is full). Info/ground rules: 863-4154; www.tantricmasturbation.net

## Wed

### GLBT Historical Society

Visual Aid presents: "Q&A with Mrs. Vera," featuring Michael Johnstone discussing his photo-art series "Mrs. Vera's Daybook and other Stories," curated by Chris Lane, on exhibit at the GLBT Historical Society through February 23. Free. 6-8pm. 973 Market St., Suite 400. Info: 777-5455; www.visualaid.org

### Art's Coffee Shop

"Castro Comedy Club," a new weekly parade of up-and-coming comedians of every background and orientation, hosted by a 25-year veteran of the trade, Bob Douglas, the self-described "Crippled Comic," who makes light of his own cerebral palsy. He gets people to laugh about that and a host of other topics. Donations help benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Francis Lutheran Church. 8pm. 138 Church St. (near Market St.).

### Bazaar Cafe

Garrin Benfield hosts the "GLBT Songwriter Series," a night of live music featuring BeRn (www.wildplum.org/bern), known for her fusion of Irish roots and American folk music, and composer, singer, piano player Sacha Sacket ("Alabaster Flesh"), plus spe-

cial literary guest Kirk Read, author of *How I Learned to Snap*, about growing up gay in the South. 7pm. 5927 California St. (Inner Richmond District). Info: www.garrin.com; www.bazaarcafe.com

## Thu

### Little Theatre, SFSU Campus

Preview/Special Event: San Francisco State University's Players Club Presents Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-Winning *Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches*, directed by Lisa Marie Sato. Kushner's masterpiece about five gay men, two women and an angel explores the sexual, racial, religious, political and social issues confronting the United States during the Reagan years as the AIDS epidemic spread. The main characters are Prior and Roy Cohn, both AIDS victims. Prior is a balanced and likable man who questions his sanity when visited by ghosts of his ancestors and by angels who declare him a prophet. Roy Cohn, a fictional representation of the real political figure, is a hateful power monger who denies his positive diagnosis, believing that only weak people contract AIDS. The other characters, among them a middle-aged Mormon woman and an African-American ex-drag queen/nurse, represent Jews,

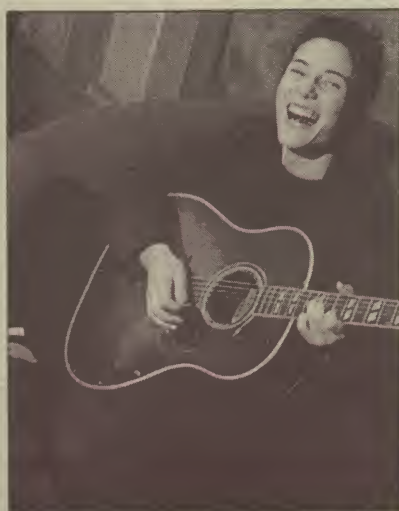
Christians and agnostics; homosexuals and heterosexuals; blacks and whites; men and women; patients and caregivers. (Kushner's most recent play, *Homebody/Kabul*, is a timely piece about life in Afghanistan under the Taliban and the role the US played in fomenting the country's misery. The play was written before September 11, 2001, and is premiering on the West Coast this spring at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre.) \$10 reserved (\$8 students/seniors). 8pm. Opening night is Feb. 8. Show dates/times: Fri. & Sat., Feb. 8 and 9, 8:00 pm; Thu.-Sat., Feb. 14-16, 8pm; Sun., Feb. 10 & 17, 2pm. Creative Arts Bldg., SFSU campus, 19th Ave. & Holloway. Tix: 338-2467.

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Send your calendar event listings to:

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Bay Area Reporter  
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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.



Ellis takes part in "San Francisco Songs" at Dolores Park Cafe. See Friday.

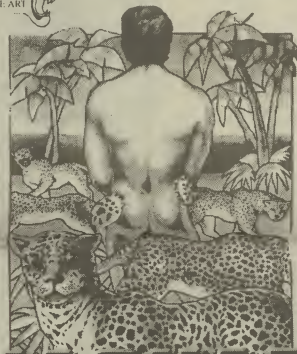
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# Leather keeps on rollin'

More fun, and more funds for charity

by Mister Marcus

In San Francisco and across the land, leather men and women keep putting on spectacular shows and working hard to earn respect, freedom and pride for our chosen lifestyle, not to mention giving everybody a chance for a great time. And this year got off to a great start, moving us in the right direction.

The first great news of the leather new year was that the 2002 Bare Chest Calendar guys raised \$30,000 for charity and garnered a year's worth of glory — all by showing off their pecs! It's a great job, if you can get it!

Another winning event took place just two weekends ago, the Mid-Atlantic Leather 2002 weekend, which saw a record turnout and the victory of David Baldwin over 11 other contestants.

Just last weekend, Brother Help Thyself in Washington, D.C. distributed some \$103,000 in grants to various Metro-DC/Baltimore agencies, and in the process honored Patrick Grady, manager of Washington Plaza Hotel, for his "Outstanding Service by an Individual." Remington's C/W Bar was recognized for "Outstanding Service by a Business," and the Founders Award went to the Academy Awards of DC.

(The organization Brother Help Thyself is very similar to San Francisco's AIDS Emergency Fund, and it's also very leather-oriented — if only the Washington Blade would give BHT the credit they deserve!)

In Los Angeles, Daddy Don Anspach was named Mr. Gauntlet II Leather, Gene Mar was named Mr. Regiment Leather 2002, and Gene Smith was chosen Mr. Long Beach Leather Bear. Also, Dan Hernandez was chosen Faultline Mr. Leather 2002.

In Dallas last Saturday night, Mr. Leather of Texas was named before a roaring crowd of 400 people at the Dallas Eagle, and stunningly handsome Stephen Weber succeeded Dan Azavedo. He'll compete at IML in Chicago next May.



**Leather**

## Down under doings

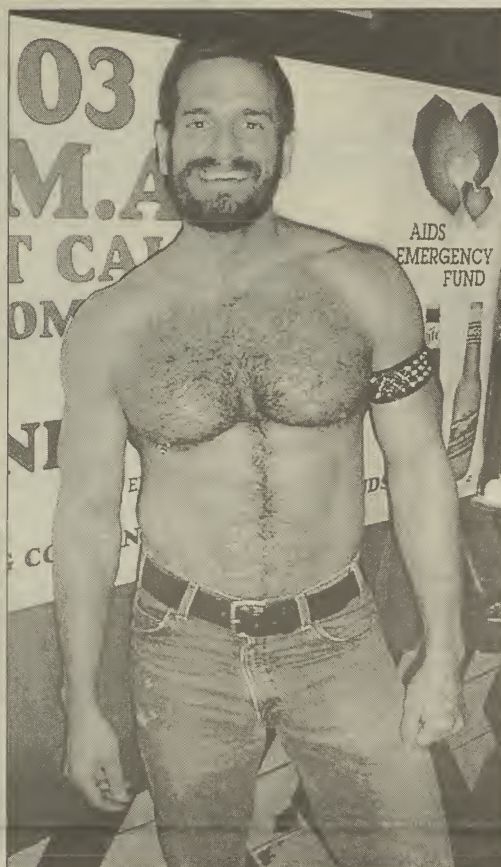
In Melbourne, Australia, The Laird Hotel, that lonely bastion of leather in Aussie Land, announced they would produce a bare chest calendar for 2003 using the SoMa edition as an inspiration/model, and former SF Resident Kym Whittington will be one of the judges at the Mr. January contest. The calendar is dedicated to the founders of the

SF Bare Chest Calendar, with acknowledgements of all involved with the calendar since the beginning. Bravo! And let's hear it for those aussie lifeguards!

## San Francisco items

This past Thursday, in San Francisco, Joe Potter won the January 2003 spot on the SoMa Bare Chest calendar, and Ken Ferraris was chosen for the February 2003 spot. Already the 2003 edition looks great!

page 39 ►



Ken Ferraris won the February spot on the 2003 SoMa Bare Chest Calendar last Thursday, January 24 at the Powerhouse. Mr. March 2003 will be chosen on Thursday, February 7 at 2100.

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Friday, February 1

"Juice" premiere's at the King Street Garage, beginning at 2100. It's a new space for women, by women.

Boot Hardon Night, sponsored by Stompers, at the Loading Dock from 2100 to closing. Comp boot shines by "Driller," and hardening effects all night.

### Saturday, February 2

Ca Eagles MC celebrate their 18th anniversary tonight at Most Holy Redeemer. By invitation only or club overlay. Congratulations!

At the Bullet in North Hollywood: the 5th of 9 contests toward Mr. Los Angeles Leather takes place, with the naming of Mr. Bullet Leather 2002.

Also in the LA area: the Oedipus MC crowns Oedipus Rex LXVII at a private residence, when Andre Rigidgen will take the crown for a year-long presidency.

### Sunday, February 3

Golden Gate Guards MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 1600-2000, for only \$7. It's Super Bowl Sunday!

### Thursday, February 7

Mr. March 2003 on the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar will be chosen tonight by judges David Kloss, Steve Gaynes and Ray Tilton, with photographer James Scott Geras. Don't miss this one!

### Friday, February 8

Mr. Daddy's Leather 2002 contest begins at 2100, with all the judges in place to see who will succeed Chris Ross with the title. Be there!

### Saturday, February 9

Mr. Edge Eric Bernier presents his last effort with the Mr. Edge Leather title — a Mardi Gras party from 1700-2000. It's a \$7 beer/soda bust, with entertainment and costume contest, with cash prizes. Bravo, Eric!

Bay Area Submissives meet from 1300-1500. For invite and location, call 430-2160, ext. 8984.

In Washington, D.C., it's the 21st annual Scarlet Bake Sale at the DC Eagle, always a big fundraiser for Brother Help Thyself.

In Los Angeles, it's the Mr. Los Angeles Leather Bear contest at the Faultline.

In Portland, Oregon, it's Portland Uniform Weekend all over town.



## PORN

# Love and carnage

by John F. Karr

You can't always get what you want. But then again, there are those days when the mailman brings it right to your door. In my last column, I complained, "These days I want true love. Or utter sensation." And then I received Titan's latest DVDs, the saturant bounty of *Desire* and *Sea Men/Fallen Angel IV*, in which the former provides the former, and the latter, the latter. Both come in such standard-setting packages crammed with innovative extra features that the industry hasn't yet created the categories of awards these discs deserve.

Even though these two movies deliver the range of extremes, from nice to nasty, the guys in the romantically oriented *Desire* make out just as earnestly as do the guys in the rough-treatment *Sea Men*.

They just don't use implements. There's no love story to *Desire*, just some furry-chested, stubble-faced adult men coming together with intimate, lingering, always hearty passion.

In the first scene of *Desire*, Michael Vincenzo meets a creamy-eyed Spaniard named Ivan Andros. In a scene which sets the movie's tone, they move



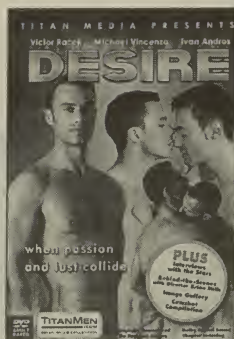
## Karrnal Knowledge

from loving embrace and consummate exploration to abandoned fucking. The warm-toned videography is delivered through mood-enhancing dissolves, without the interruptive jump cuts

that are elsewhere the standard. You'll enjoy taking your time as this pair makes out. When Ivan's sphincter opens so rotundly, Michael's tongue is drawn as surely inward as if it were Alice, and Ivan the rabbit hole.

Vincenzo has previously been filmed in a handful of threeways.

Yet, in the disc's bonus interview, he reveals that this type of one-on-one is his personal preference. "It's more intimate, more romantic," he says. And he's right. Which is not to imply that the three-way which is the movie's second scene is neither intimate nor romantic. Everything's contextual, you know. With a fire crackling in the hearth, a pair of lovers and their neighbor lift a champagne toast To Relationships! as they celebrate the one-year anniversary of their close friendship by getting it on — again. While this trio is more sportive than romantic, this is no casual fling. The men's leisure displays a thoroughness that can only come from a longtime and close bonding. After a quarter-hour of lip locks on every part of the body where a lip can be locked, they cum in succession. Then, as the bass backdrop heats up the soundtrack, they dive right into a more urgent fucking, as ruggedly handsome Matt Sizemore (who certainly lives up to his *nom de porn*) and muscle-hump Colton Roth thrust their throbbing torpedoes into Marine-



styled daddy's boy John Truitt, who's got great white globes of a most receptive ass.

Two subsequent scenes maintain the mood, and the disc has an extra 45 minutes of Bonus material, none of which is padding. They include eight delightful minutes of Brian Mills' photo shoot (watch the guys get their hard-ons into position and hold 'em there, with the resultant photo inset for a moment); a Cumshot Review with 16 orgasms in eight minutes; and charmingly candid interviews with the stars. You fell in lust with Matt Sizemore during the movie (think Ken Ryker 15 years from now, a little weathered, a lot more self-knowing). Afterwards, his comments will make you fall in love.

### Good grief

I've gushed at length about *Sea Men* previously [BAR, 8/30/01], so I won't re-review this excellent movie. But a warning: despite moments of passionate roughhousing, *Sea Men* is generally not

for the faint of heart. Its over-the-edge S&M menu is informed, however, with a non-punitive, relationship-based approach — it's just good, clean (and devilishly scary) S&M. Watch and learn, boys. Watch and squirm. If you've liked *Sea Men*, you'll cream over this expansive, deluxe edition, an incredible four-disc package. The movie fills two discs, a third houses a full 80 minutes of riveting bonus features, and — isn't this a first? — a fourth audio disc delivers the goth/meth soundtrack (*sans* screams). Another unique feature is the movie's chaptering, which allows you to choose scenes by performer, or even by fetish. You can instantly suit your needs (or your date's).

The Bonus material includes alluring glimpses of the photo shoots, an unhurried cum-shot review and slide show, as well as additional scenes: some savage cock-and-ball electric torture, and a staggering dildo and autofisting sequence. We also get to watch a testicle infusion procedure that raised my hackles, but also brought me to understand and appreciate the sensations involved (these sure are sordid sprinkles I'm heaping on my vanilla tastes). I can't believe these sequences were left out originally, and it's too bad they couldn't have been put back into the movie proper, because they deserve that continuity. ▼

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## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

This past weekend, Ms. World Leather Annie Romano-Blas swooped into town to host a Lupus fundraiser at Daddy's, and the Defenders celebrated their 8th anniversary with a snazzy celebration at the Loading Dock. From all reports, both were successful interludes.

The Inter-Club Fund released the names of the nominees for the Motorcycle Awards taking place on Saturday, February 16, and local nominees for Pantheon of Leather Awards taking place in Chicago on the same day were announced as well. The list of nominees for both awards ceremonies is longer than space permits here — but good luck and congratulations to everyone!

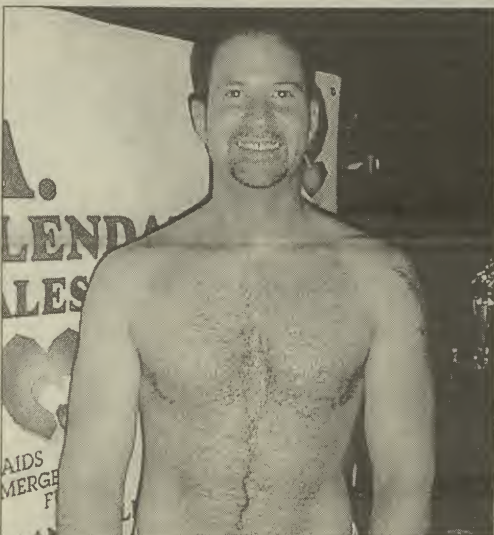
The race for the Mr. San Francisco Leather 2002 title gets underway this month with the Daddy's, the Edge and the Powerhouse all conducting contests. No word has reached me yet from the Eagle or any other leather-oriented business. With such a big leather population in San Francisco, it's a shame there are not more contests — or contestants.

But the contests we do have are not to be missed. For instance, Mr. San Francisco Leather 2002 will take place at Club Townsend on Friday, March 8, and tickets will go on sale any day now. The names of the judges will be announced next week, and the committee under President Jerry Roberts is hard at work getting it all together for a great production.

As scheduled so far, Daddy's Mr. Leather is on Friday, February 8; Mr. Edge Leather is on Wednesday, February 13; and Mr. Powerhouse Leather is on Friday, February 15. Judges are in place for all three, and the race is on! Hope to see you there.

### Female allure

Great news for women: Tomorrow night, Friday, February 1, it's "Juice," a new place for women at the King Street Garage (174 King St.), with low lights, steamy atmosphere, cool surprises. Dress Coyote Ugly, be very sexy and let it flow. Doors open at 2100, so be there! ▼



Joe Potter won out over four other contestants to become Mr. January 2003 on the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar. The competition took place on January 10 at the Powerhouse Bar.

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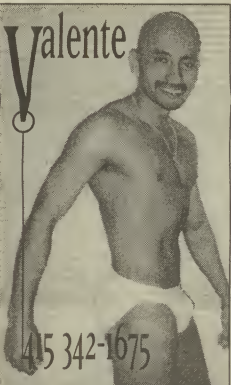
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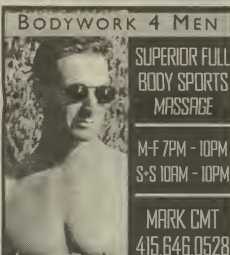
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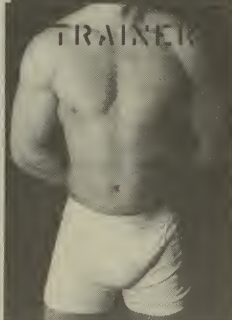
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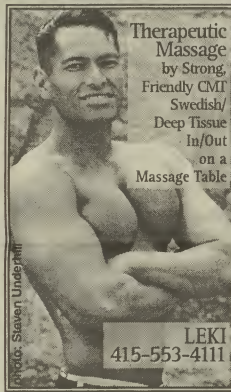
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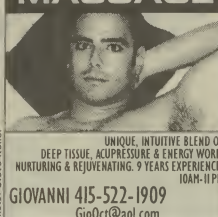
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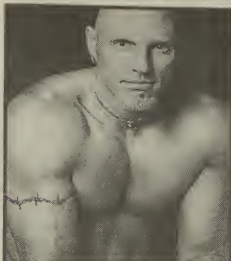
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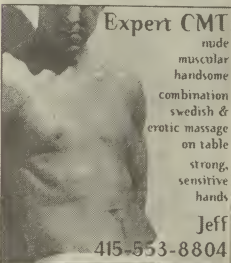
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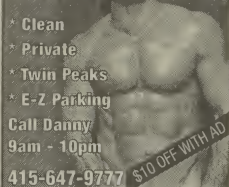
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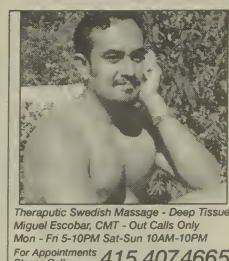
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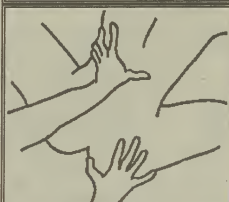
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Lean smooth leather top, 33  
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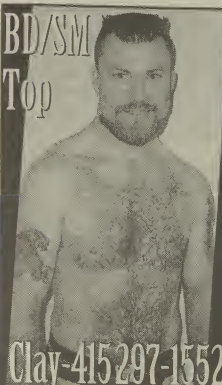
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## PERSONALS

## MODEL/ESCORTS

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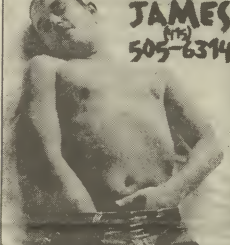
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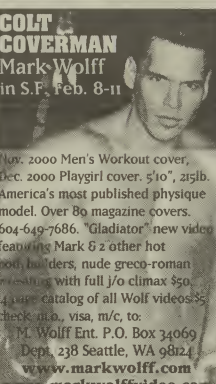
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Easy going & sexy, day+nite raunch  
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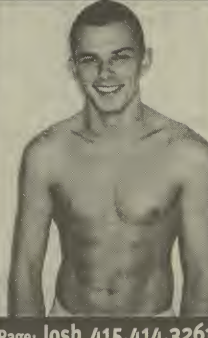
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Very handsome well endowed, great  
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affectionate, smart & friendly will  
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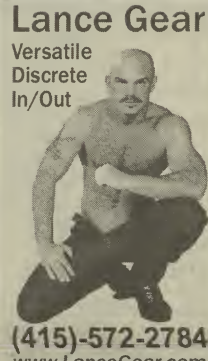
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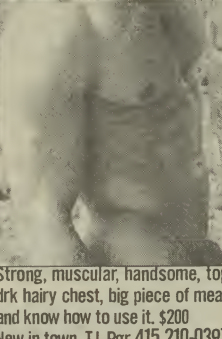
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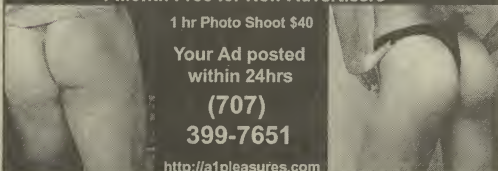
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO:****DAVID BALDWIN**

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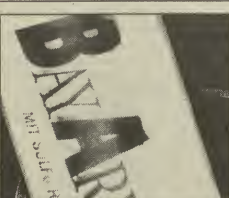
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**Berkeley**  
510-238-8877  
For other California areas  
1-888-272-7277

**San Francisco**  
**415-330-4888**  
Use FREE code 2160

1-800-505-2323 (\$1.99/min.) 18+ Browse at [www.interactivemale.com](http://www.interactivemale.com)

**HORNY STRAIGHT GUYS 1-900-505-2324 10¢/min. 18+**

**Casual Sex™** 30Free Minutes  
with code 9881

Women Call Free! For over 287 cities  
1-888-465-4LUV (4688)

**Like Leather?**

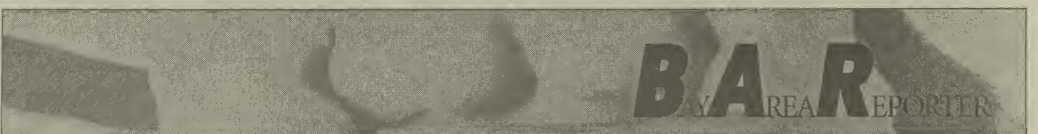
Record, listen & respond to personal ads **FREE!**

**San Francisco**  
**415-247-2000**  
**East Bay**  
**510-814-6699**  
**Metro San Jose**  
**408-532-3000**

Use FREE Access Code **3324**  
[www.confidentialconnection.com](http://www.confidentialconnection.com)

**THE CONFIDENTIAL CONNECTION™**

18+ Callers are not pre-screened. 800-825-1500



**BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIED ORDER FORM**

Indicate Type Style Here ▼

	X-BOLD Stops Here ▼	BOLD Stops Here ▼	CAPS Stop Here ▼	Regular Stops Here ▼
DEADLINE				
NOON on MONDAY.				
Payment must accompany ad.				
No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019.				
Display advertising rates available upon request.				
RATES				
First line, Regular 4.50				
All subsequent lines 3.00				
CAPS double price				
BOLD double price				
X-BOLD triple price				
PAYMENT				
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash				
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Check				
<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order				
<input type="checkbox"/> Visa				
<input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard				
<input type="checkbox"/> American Express				
Minimum \$10 charge.				
CREDIT CARD PAYMENT				
Card Number				
Expiration Date				
Signature				
Name				
CONTACT INFORMATION				
Name				
Address				
City				
State				
Zip				
Number of Issues				
Classification				
Amount Enclosed				
MAIL WITH PAYMENT TO:				
Bay Area Reporter				
395 Ninth Street				
SF, CA 94103				
OR FAX TO:				
415.861.8144				
OR E-MAIL:				
baradv@aol.com				



HEPATITIS A&B...no big deal, right?

Nausea so bad you want to die  
A month away from work.  
No appetite for weeks.  
No sex. No beer, no wine,  
no vodka. No gym.  
Stuck in the hospital.  
Yellow skin. Yellow eyes.  
Fever. Chills.  
And years later...  
some liver damage,  
maybe even death.

## You can prevent all this—so why don't you?

The fact is, hepatitis is a very big deal. And men who have sex with men are at greater risk for hepatitis A and B. That's why the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends you get vaccinated to prevent these 2 serious diseases.

**PROTECT YOURSELF!** See your doctor about vaccination today. For referral to a gay-friendly physician near you, call GLMA at 1-877-LGBTDOC or visit our Web site at [www.glma.org/hepatitis](http://www.glma.org/hepatitis)



San Francisco  
Department of  
Public Health

**Adult Immunization Clinic**  
101 Grove Street (Grove and Polk)  
Suite 405  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.554.2625

[www.dph.sf.ca.us](http://www.dph.sf.ca.us)



**GLMA**  
GAY & LESBIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

[www.glma.org](http://www.glma.org)

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